COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

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COLORADO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

by Donald M. Thatcher

The Christmas Counts furnish several interesting and significant contrasts with those of last year, as well as many similarities. The two counts made by this Club each found fewer species than the counts of a year ago: 80 and 25, as compared with last year's 85 and 34. Stormy weather, making both travel and observation difficult, was at least partly responsible for the lower count in the low-altitude area, and the apparently complete absence of several mountain species reduced the species count for the higher altitudes. Colorado Springs, with unfavorable weather, also found fewer species, while Boulder, Durango and Longmont had the advantage of better conditions to gain over last year.

Most of the regular species closely paralleled in numbers last year's counts, but several showed marked differences. Following are totals for the latter species for the combined Eastern Slope counts (Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, Idaho Springs and Longmont) for this year and last; the second pair of figures for each species represents the Durango counts (if any) for the two years. Note that in all cases except Raven, Siskin, Oregon Junco and total Juncos the comparative counts for Durango reversed the pattern of the Eastern Slope totals.

Common Raven: 18(1954), 6(1955)(Eastern Slope): 8, 2(Durango).
American Robin: 160, 24; 0, 277.
Townsend's Solitaire: 135, 48; 0, 76.
Common Starling: 1964, 1166; 25, 82.
Red-winged Blackbird: 4877, 3015: 2, 1342.
Pine Grosbeak: 67, 0.
Brown-capped Rosy Finch: 2, 61(Georgetown only).
Rosy Finch(species?): 44, 2(Plains near Denver, only).
Pine Siskin: 77, 580; 50, 55.
American Goldfinch: 107, 731; 70, 0.
Red Crossbill: 73, 0.
White-winged Junco: 71, 144.
Slate-colored Junco: 116, 227.
Oregon Junco: 2680, 2071: 560, 343.
Gray-headed Junco: 1065, 955; 115, 137.
All Juncos: 3932, 3397: 675, 480.
Tree Sparrow: 1059, 2587; 13, 0.

The six counts here reported had a total of 112 species last year and 113 this year. The total for 1954 and 1955 combined is 132; that for the last three years is 143 species.

Two species, Carolina Wren(Colorado Springs) and Glaucous Gull(Denver) and probably a third, Scaled Quail(Colorado Springs) are believed to have been found for the first time on Christmas Counts in Colorado.

Following is a summary of the six Colorado Counts:

B - Boulder	Jan. 1	Dur - Durango	Dec. 26
C S - Colorado Springs	Dec. 26	I S - Idaho Springs	Jan. 2
D-J - Denver-Jefferson County	Dec. 26	L - Longmont	Dec. 30

* asterisk indicates species not found on last year's Christmas Count.

Species	B	CS	D-J	Dur	IS	L
Common Loon*				1		
Pied-billed Grebe			5			
Great Blue Heron	2	4	5			
Whistling Swan*			2			
Canada Goose			156	22		
Snow Goose*						2
Mallard	6900	75	1897	10		4531
Gadwall			27			
American Widgeon	50		94			
Pintail	120	1	29			4
Green-winged Teal	2		24			
Shoveller			25			
Wood Duck			1			
Redhead*			7			
Ring-necked Duck	1		15	5		
Canvasback*			20			
Lesser Scaup*			2			
American Golden-eye		2	20	39		
Bufflehead*			6			
Ruddy Duck			4			
American Merganser			3000	1		
Red-breasted Merganser*			2			
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1				
Accipiter (species?)			1			
Red-tailed Hawk	5	4	8	1	3	1
Swainson's Hawk		1				
Rough-legged Hawk		4				4
Ferruginous Hawk		1				
Golden Eagle	1	7	4	2	2	
Bald Eagle		1		1		1
Marsh Hawk	3	8		3		10
Prairie Falcon	1	2	1	1		1
Peregrine Falcon*			1			
Pigeon Hawk		2				
Sparrow Hawk	5	9	16	3		2
Blue Grouse*					2	
Scaled Quail*		10				
Ring-necked Pheasant	20	15	56			9
American Coot		1	200			
Killdeer	11	10	48			33
Wilson's Snipe	11	19	13			11
Glaucous Gull*			1			
Herring Gull	3		13			10
Ring-billed Gull	6		67			
Mourning Dove						1
Horned Owl		5	3			
Pygmy Owl*	1					
Long-eared Owl		1				
Belted Kingfisher	6	1	8	2		7
Red-shafted Flicker	72	92	110	17		73
Lewis's Woodpecker	13			3		4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					
Hairy Woodpecker	3	13	6		2	1
Downy Woodpecker	5	14	21	2	4	4
Horned Lark	37	190	391			488

Species	B	CS	D-J	Dur	IS	L
Gray Jay					12	
Steller's Jay	47	244	55	23	29	15
Scrub Jay	3	73	22	40		1
American Magpie	140	444	649	92	20	146
Common Raven				2	6	
American Crow	10	218	149			625
Pinon Jay	65	2		21		
Clark's Nutcracker					8	
Black-capped Chickadee	16	82	106	5	5	42
Mountain Chickadee	20	137	76	9	95	66
Common Bushtit		64				
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	39	8		1	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1			1	
Pygmy Nuthatch		60	89			
Brown Creeper	10	15	12		4	2
American Dipper	1	2	6	4		21
Winter Wren	1		1			
Marsh Wren						1
Carolina Wren*		1				
Canyon Wren	5	6	10			
Rock Wren*			1			
American Robin	5	5	10	277		4
Western Bluebird				3		
Mountain Bluebird*				1		
Townsend's Solitaire	3	5	18	76	22	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		30	2		4	
Water Pipit						10
Cedar Waxwing		4	10			
Gray Shrike		3	2			
Loggerhead Shrike		1				
Common Starling	238	242	96	82		590
House Sparrow	623	888	351	121	5	514
Western Meadowlark	95	169	325	5		176
Red-winged Blackbird	4	697	154	1342		2160
Brewer's Blackbird		20	40			52
Brown-headed Cowbird*						3
Evening Grosbeak	12	1	10			
Cassin's Finch	1	14	4			
House Finch	63	529	160	16		103
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch					4	
Black Rosy Finch					1	
Brown-capped Rosy Finch					61	
Rosy Finch (species?)			2			
Pine Siskin	1	211	367	55		1
American Goldfinch	45	29	651			6
Lesser Goldfinch		1				
Spotted Towhee		18	4	6		
White-winged Junco	20	43	79		2	
Slate-colored Junco	17	110	91		1	8
Oregon Junco (incl. Pink-sided)	102	1093	735	343	2	139
Gray-headed Junco	14	659	259	137	22	1
American Tree Sparrow	136	1093	448			910
Chipping Sparrow		1				
Harris's Sparrow						4
White-crowned Sparrow	4	122	134	11		56
White-throated Sparrow	1	3	2			
Swamp Sparrow			1			

Species	B	CS	D-J	Dur	IS	L
Fox Sparrow*			1			
Lincoln's Sparrow*			2			
Song Sparrow	8	97	135	15		30
Species	56	69	80	39	25	49
Party hours	29½	55½	100	9	28	17½
Parties	5	9	12	1	3	2
Observers	14	32	33	3	6	18

Observers:-

Boulder - Douglas, Gordon & Marion Alexander, Leslie Baylor, Kathleen Beargie, Lawrence Crowley, John Fitch, Eleanor & John Hough, Edna Johnson, Marjorie & Owen Knorr, William Weber, Olwen Williams.

Colorado Springs - Mrs. T. L. Adams, Evelyn Binz, Anna Condit, Mrs. Lavinia H. Curtis, Stanley Davis, Edna Dessaint, Mrs. Kenneth E. Ewing, Mrs. L. B. Field, Larry Field, Margaret H. Floyd, Dr. Mary A. Hamilton, Mrs. Marjorie B. Leavens, Mrs. M. W. McRoberts, Mrs. Prudence Mick, Dorothy Mierow, Mr. & Mrs. R. Newton Miller, Jean Miller, Kent Nelson, Paul W. Nesbit, Mary Shirer, Mr. & Mrs. George (Eva) Sinton, Wilbur Sinton, Mrs. F. V. Slifer, Marshall Sprague, Dr. Robert M. Stabler, Mrs. B. E. Sutton, Mrs. Helen B. Thurlow, James H. Turner, Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Weberbauer (Aiken Ornithological Society).

Denver - Jefferson County - John Chapin, Mrs. A. H. Crow, Lawrence Crowley, David, Gerald, Ruth & Ted DeMent, John & Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Alma & William Foerster, Leo Galloway, Robert Glover, James Humphrey, David Juergens, Alma Kirkeby, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Leonard Licht, Alice, Lucy, Mary & Thompson Marsh, Vera Matthews, Edwin D. McKee, Phyllis McRae, Sadie Morrison, Ray Olson, Olney Smith, Ranson Stone, Donald Thatcher, Harold Webster, Ruth Wheeler.

Durango - Dr. R. W. Dawson, Thomas J. Frizell, Oppie Reames.

Idaho Springs - Ona Anderson, John Chapin, John Flavin, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Thompson Marsh, Donald Thatcher.

Longmont - Jay Arnold, Mrs. R. J. Baysdorfer, Mrs. E. J. Boyd, Mrs. W. J. Cheley, Mrs. Carl Collister, Ruby Collister, Mrs. Charles Foster, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Guernsey, Peggy Guernsey, Glasys Hubbard, Ray Jones, Jackie Landers, Mrs. Kent Sanborn, Alex & Betty Schlupp, Nelly Simms, Nina Stulty.

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BIRDS OF THE SEASON

Whereas several species of birds were common in the vicinity of Denver last winter, many of these are unusually scarce this year. The mountain finches, other than the Rosy Finches, seem to be most outstanding in this respect. The Pine Grosbeak is entirely absent, apparently even from its summer habitat, while last year it occurred in both of our Christmas Counts, was common at Hughes Ranch (east of Sedalia) and at Genesee Mountain, and was found in Denver. The Red Crossbill, abundant in the foothills in 1951-52 (breeding through the winter), frequent the next year and quite common last year, has entirely disappeared; the last observation (by the writer) was of eight, mostly males, June 17, 1954, on Genesee Mountain. Cassin's Finch, less common last year than the preceding winter, is almost entirely absent. The Pine Siskin was abundant in the mountains two years ago, but scarce last year and this year; it is, however, now fairly abundant on the plains. Rosy Finches have not been common on the plains, at least at Denver, since the winter of 1951-52; they are more abundant in the mountains this year (at Georgetown) than in the past two winters, especially the Brown-capped. The White-winged Junco, abundant in the foothills 1951-52 and 1953-54, was scarce 1952-53 and is so this year, but it is more common than usual along the edge of the plains, as at Red Rocks Park. All Juncos are scarce in the mountains (there were none at Georgetown at or preceding the time of the Christmas Count) but are unusually abundant on the plains; the Gray-headed seems to be disproportionately numerous.

Denver this year is the winter home of an unusual nimber of Mountain Chickadees, which are regular visitors at feeders. While a year ago that species seemed to confine its feeding to the evergreen trees, this winter it seen as often in apple, maple and other deciduous trees as in the conifers, frequently in company with Black-capped Chickadees. The Brown Creeper and the White-breasted Nuthatch also are much more common than usual in the city.

The Robin, unexplainably abundant about Denver and common in the mountains three years ago and much fewer in numbers the past two winters, is almost entirely absent this winter. Townsend's Solitaire is much less numerous than usual. (Note large numbers of Robins and Solitaires reported for Christmas Count at Durango (page 3), where none were recorded last year.) Last year's downward movement to the foothills by the Common Raven and Clark's Nutcracker is not being repeated.

The Mourning Dove, heretofore reported in only 14% of all (149) Christmas Counts from Colorado, has been seen in numbers at least four times at Denver, Loveland and Colorado Springs, also one on Loveland Christmas Count. (See below and Dec. 1954 CBN, p. 5.) The Red-winged Blackbird is not nearly so abundant as usual in winter. (See Christmas Count report.)

Following are some unusual occurrences:

* Species so marked were reported seen during or immediately preceding the Christmas Count period (Dec. 25 to Jan. 2). Numbers and dates for some not at hand.

Bald Eagle - 1 adult 1/8 Hogback at Mt. Vernon Canyon (D. Thatcher)
Pigeon Hawk (Richardson's) - 1 1/5 Lowry Air Force Base (J. Flavin)
Mourning Dove - 4 12/21 Colorado Springs*; 25 1/15 Clear Creek at Wheatridge (DT); 11 1/16 near Loveland (J. & M. Douglass).
Pygmy Owl - 1 12/24 2 mi. E of Morrison (D. Juergens, A. Kirkeby, S. Morrison).
Blue Jay - Longmont*.
White-necked Raven - 1 1/5 SE Denver (JF).
Water Pipit - 1 1/16 S. Platte River near Engelwood (J.Chapin, R.Glover, R.Stone, DT).
Bohemian Waxwing - Boulder*; 25 12/27 Colo. Spgs.*
Cedar Waxwing - 12 12/24 NW Denver (DT).
Common Starling - about 470 1/16 between Denver & Loveland (20 occurrences) (JD,MD).
Myrtle Warbler - Boulder*.
Snow Bunting - 1 12/29 Colorado Springs*.

---D. M. Thatcher

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

January 3, 1955. - The past monthhas seen little to report in the way of news in bird land, but there are a few interesting notes.

The Horned Larks and Alaska Lapland Longspurs continue to be very common, and are not only about the fields but also well scattered out in the pasture. The night of the snow and near-blizzard, December 27, dozens of both the Larks and Longspurs swarmed about the two yard lights, much as moths in summer, and were hitting the houses and buildings. They were first noted about 6:30 in the evening and the lights were turned out immediately. Only one Lark was found crippled the next day.

I'll have to extend the Rock Wren 'last date' again as one was still about, Dec. 22, and a few may be spending the winter here.

American Tree Sparrows are common about the buildings as well as some in the canyons. Flocks of 6 to 30 or 40 can be seen almost any day.

The Gray Shrike continues about and seems to find most of his food about the stacks. He is an excellent mouser. The House Sparrows apparently are not bothered this year by this Shrike but they continue to be very quiet and only small flocks of 6 to 12 are seen.

Two Ravens passed, Dec. 7; they have been scarce here the past year. Golden Eagles are about commonly, as are the Rough-leg Hawks and a few Marsh Hawks. The only geese seen this fall were one flock of 25 or 30 Canadas. One Pheasant stays about the buildings here. A Flicker was heard calling today, Jan. 3.

Two trips to Fort Morgan and one to Weldona were made in the past month.

	to Fort Morgan (38 mi. round trip)		to Weldona (21 mi. round trip)
	Dec. 3	Dec. 20	Dec. 9
Rough-legged Hawk	6	2	8
Marsh Hawk	2	2	1
Prairie Falcon	1	1	0
Sparrow Hawk	1	0	1
Red-shafted Flicker	1	0	0
Horned Lark	150-200	200-300	100
Magpie	15	10	6
Gray Shrike	0	0	1
Starling	25-30	1	0
House Sparrow	150-200	175-200	10
Meadow Lark	10	2	3
Red-winged Blackbird	20-25	200-250	6
American Tree Sparrow	15	15-20	10
Lapland Longspur	6	2	3

The number of Longspurs is difficult to ascertain at any time, but they are fairly common. One Rough-legged Hawk on the Weldona trip was in the black phase, which is unusual here.

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TIME magazine for January 10, 1955 contains an article on the Christmas Count, "Big Hunt Without Kills," an interesting an serious account of birding by a non-birder, accompanied by several colored bird portraits.

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Answers to Last Month's O. Q. Test

1. American Merganser
2. Sora
3. Dowitcher
4. Downy Woodpecker
5. Hermit Thrush
6. American Bittern
7. Red-throated Loon
8. Black-bellied Plover
9. Olive-sided Flycatcher
10. Raven
11. Gray Shrike (Northern)
12. Brown Thrasher
13. Mockingbird
14. Ovenbird
15. Black-crowned Night Heron

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1955

January

25 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - Recorded program, "Sounds in Nature", by Loye Miller of Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles presented by John Douglass (Note change in program)
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(Please use north (employees')entrance)

30 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Upper Cherry Creek. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200)
Meet Main Library (Civic Center) Bring lunch. bTransportation, 50¢

February

12 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Red Rocks Park and vicinity. Buryl Cummins, leader (GE3-3787). Meet Sheridan & W. Colfax. Transp. 50¢.

20 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Genesee Mountain Park. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet at Main Library (Civic Center). Transp. 50¢.

22 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History

Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Non-members are welcome atnall meetings and field trips.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

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Vol. 2 No. 6 February 1955

THREE WINTER BIRD POPULATION STUDIES IN THE FOOTHILLS

by Donald M. Thatcher

The three winter bird population studies in Genesee Mountain Park, which were reported in the February, 1954, COLORADO BIRD NOTES have been repeated this winter. The same areas were studied, also, for breeding bird populations, as reported in the October, 1953 and July-August-September NOTES. These studies are conducted as part of the co-operative project of the National Audubon Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, of which this winter is the eighth season. The results of these studies from all sections of the country are published annually in the June "Audubon Field Notes."

Two of the areas, for which this season is the fifth of study, are of 20 acres each, of approximately 90-year old immature forest on the north slope of Genesee Mountain, at elevations of 7900 to 8200 feet above sea level. They are representative of the transition between the Transition or Foothills and the Canadian or Montane life-zones, one being of nearly pure Lodgepole Pine and the other of Douglas Fir. The third area, for which this is the fourth season of study, is of 67 acres of nearly pure, all-aged Ponderosa Pine at elevations of 7700 to 7950 feet. It is believed to be representative of the upper half of the Transition life-zone, which lies generally between 6000 and 8000 feet at that latitude.

Briefly, the requirements for these studies are that: (1) the habitat be uniform throughout the study area and surrounded by essentially similar habitat; (2) at least 6 trips be made over the entire area; (3) to avoid possible counting of migrants, study trips be made only between December 20 and February 10; and (4) for the best counts, trips be made only in fair, calm weather. As winter birds move about freely, unlike territorial breeding birds, counting must be kept on a statistical basis, with determination, as nearly as possible, of the numbers of all birds present on the entire area at one time.

All trips were made by the writer, assisted on one or more during the several seasons by Lang Baily, Arthur Bennett, John Chapin, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Leonard Licht, George Sciple, Hazel Thatcher and Otto Wlassak.

The accompanying tables summarize the counts in the three habitats for the four or five seasons involved. These should furnish a good list and an idea of the relative abundance of the winter birds occurring in theforests of the upper foothills near Denver. Comparison of the populations for each habitat indicates the fluctuation in numbers of those species which are always present and the irregular occurrence of the others. While it would be interesting to correlate the population changes with climatic factors, principally precipitation and temperature, it is unlikely that any such correlation could be made for so few as four or five successive winters. Moreover, for most species, population fluctuations in the foothills, if they are due at all to winter climatic factors, are more likely reflections of climatic conditions either in the higher mountains or farther north, or both. The presence or absence of many species, especially Fringillids, Corvids and thrushes, apparently is influenced more by an abundance or shortage of suitable food, not only in the study areas but elsewhere(higher or north) than by climate. Seed or fruit crops of Ponderosa Pine (Red Crossbill), Mountain Mahogany(Cassin's Finch), and Colorado Juniper and Squaw Currant(Townsend's Solitaire and Robin) were poor this season. The Red Crossbill has disappeared entirely, after its abundance from the spring of 1951 to that of 1954 (the last seen by or reported to the writer were 8 on Genesee Mountain, June 17, 1954).

The only species which might be influenced much by the heavier-than -usual snow cover of the current season are the juncos, generally ground feeders, which, however, nearly all left the foothills for the plains several weeks before the first considerable snow fall. The unusually high count of Crows(Ponderosa Pine habitat) was of birds flying over, probably between a roost farther west in the foothills and feeding grounds on the edge of the plains. (A flock of 90 flew east at 8:30 A. M. January 25, over or near the study area, and smaller flocks were seen December 24 and February 5.)

The species are arranged in the tables in the order of their abundance, as averaged for the several years of study. The numbers in the columns indicate the average numbers of birds, to the nearest whole number, observed per trip on the study area, followed by the number per 100 acres in parentheses. A plus (+) indicates an average of less than .5 bird per trip.

Ponderosa Pine Forest

	Year	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	No. Trips	7	6	6	6
	Dates	1/4-2/9	12/26-2/1	12/20-2/7	12/24-2/5
	Hours	19	12	14	11
Pygmy Nuthatch		21(31)	19(28)	45(67)	9(14)
Mountain Chickadee		9(14	8(12)	12(18)	6(9)
White-winged Junco		10(15)	---	10(15)	---
Cassin's Finch		---	6(9)	1(2)	---
White-breasted Nuthatch		3(4)	2(3)	2(3)	1(2)
Steller's Jay		1(2)	1(2)	3(5)	1(2)
Red Crossbill		4(6)	---	1(2)	---
Am. Crow		---	1(2)	2(3)	7(10)
Townsend's Solitaire		1(2)	1(2)	1(1)	---
Pine Siskin		---	3(4)	---	---
Gray-headed Junco		---	1(2)	1(2)	---
Hairy Woodpecker		1(1)	+	1(2)	---
Am. Robin		1(2)	---	1(1)	---
Am. Magpie		1(1)	+	1(1)	1(1)
Brown Creeper		1(2)	+	---	+
Clark's Nutcracker		---	1(2)	+	---
Golden-crowned Kinglet		+	---	1(1)	---
Oregon Junco(Shufeldt's)		1(1)	---	---	---
Goshawk		---	---	+	---
Horned Owl		---	+	---	---
Common Raven		---	---	+	+
Pine Grosbeak		---	---	+	---
American Goldfinch		---	+	---	---
Slate-colored Junco		+	---	---	---
Unidentified Juncos		+	+	+	1(1)
No. Species	24	14	15	18	9
Aver. birds per trip		54	43	82	26
Birds per 100 acres		81	64	123	39

Year	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
No. Trips	7	6	6	6	6
Dates	12/24-2/4	12/28-2/10	12/20-2/6	12/20-2/8	1/8 - 2/6
Total hours (each)	6	5½	5	5½	4
Lodgepole Pine Forest					
Mountain Chickadee	4(20)	2(10)	7(35)	4(20)	4(20)
Pygmy Nuthatch	---	---	6(30)	1(5)	2(10)
Brown Creeper	2(10)	1(5)	2(10)	1(5)	2(10)
Red Crossbill	---	1(5)	---	5(25)	---
White-breasted Nuthatch	+	+	1(5)	1(5)	---
Pine Siskin	---	---	2(10)	---	---
Am. Magpie	+	1(5)	+	---	+
Golden-crowned Kinglet	+	---	---	1(5)	+
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1(5)	---	---	---	---
Pine Grosbeak	---	---	---	1(5)	---
Oregon Junco(Pink-sided)	---	---	---	---	1(5)
Gray-headed Junco	---	---	---	1(5)	1(5)
Hairy Woodpecker	---	---	---	+	+
Am. Crow	---	---	+	---	+
Clark's Nutcracker	+	---	---	---	---
Am. Robin	---	---	---	+	---
Townsend's Solitaire	---	---	---	+	---
Unidentified Juncos	+	---	---	---	---
No. Species 17	8	5	7	11	8
Aver. birds per trip	7	5	18	15	9
Birds per 100 acres	35	25	90	75	45
Douglas Fir Forest					
Mountain Chickadee	2(10)	3(15)	8(40)	7(35)	4(20)
Pygmy Nuthatch	---	---	8(40)	1(5)	+
Am. Magpie	3(15)	1(5)	1(5)	1(5)	1(5)
Brown Creeper	1(5)	2(10)	+	2(10)	1(5)
White-breasted Nuthatch	+	1(5)	1(5)	1(5)	1(5)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1(5)	1(5)	+	1(5)	---
Red Crossbill	---	---	+	2(10)	---
Pine Siskin	---	---	2(10)	---	---
Gray-headed Junco	---	---	2(10)	---	---
Steller's Jay	+	---	+	1(5)	---
Townsend's Solitaire	---	+	1(5)	+	---
Hairy Woodpecker	---	1(5)	+	---	---
White-winged Junco	---	---	1(5)	---	---
Goshawk	---	---	---	+	---
Common Raven	---	---	---	---	+
Am. Crow	---	---	+	---	+
Red-breasted Nuthatch	+	---	---	---	---
Am. Goldfinch	---	---	+	---	+
Oregon Junco(Pink-sided)	---	---	+	---	1(5)
Unidentified Juncos	---	---	---	+	---
No. Species 19	7	7	16	11	7
Aver. birds per trip	7	9	24	16	8
Birds per 100 acres	35	45	120	80	40

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

Feb. 3, 1955 - The past month again has little to report in the way of bird news, but there are a few notes of interest. The persistent cold seems to have held the bird population static. In only the last few days, when it was somewhat warmer, was any change noted, and that mostly in the movement of the Oregon Juncos, mainly Pink-sided, which increased to 15 or 20 at times. Only 1 Montana and 1 Shufeldt's were noted among these. The Tree Sparrow became scarce and only about half a dozen remained about. The snow storm today should bring them back. Twenty-five or thirty Lesser Goldfinches were here after the snow, Jan. 4, and have been noted a time or two since, but on the whole are very rare. One Downy Woodpecker, very rare here, was seen along the creek feeding in the sunflower thickets, Jan. 7. Three or more Western Meadowlarks have been about all winter.

Sparrow hawks have been about irregularly all winter. They are unusual here and were seen Jan. 15 and 31 and Feb. 1 and 2. No Bald Eagles have been seen here this past fall and winter; the first time in more than ten years. The Golden Eagle remains about commonly and does a great deal of good feeding on the Jack Rabbit, which is fairly numerous this year.

The Gray Shrike remains about and during the severe cold weather, when the mice stayed in the stacks, it was seen to chase and kill a Pink-sided Junco; however, it seems to prefer mice if it can get them. No House Sparrows have been seen killed by the Shrike so far. There are only about a half dozen here this winter; they are quiet and keep well hidden.

Two trips were made to Fort Morgan in the past month(38 mile round trip).

	Jan.11	Jan. 26
Rough-legged Hawk	5	6
Marsh Hawk	1	4
Prairie Falcon	0	3
Sparrow Hawk	0	1
Horned Lark	3000-4000	2000-3000
Blue Jay(in town)	0	2
Magpie	6	10
Gray Shrike	1	1
Starling	0	0
House Sparrow	25-30	10-15
Western Meadowlark	6-10	2
Red-winged Blackbird	10-15	50-100
American Tree Sparrow	10	3
Lapland Longspur	4	3

The enormous flocks of Horned Larks were noted over millet stubble fields and the numbers I have given are conservative. There were some Longspurs among them but numbers could not be estimated. Both Larks and Longspurs are unusually numerous now as they were last fall. Some small flocks of Longspurs have numbered from 3 or 4 up to 25, and at this time are working north. The Horned Larks first started singing Jan. 30 and have been singing every day since then except today, which is stormy.

ADDITIONAL COLORADO CHRISTMAS COUNTS

The following two Christmas Count reports were received after publication of the January "Notes". They add six species(underlined in the list below)to the list for the six counts previously reported and four(*) to last year's list. Revised total for this year is 119; last two years, 136; last three years, 147 species.

	Crook	Ft. Collins		Crook	Ft. Collins
Mallard	30,412	1200	Mountain Chickadee	--	17
American Widgeon		1	Brown Creeper		1
Pintail		10	American Dipper		7
Green-winged Teal	3	4	Canyon Wren		1
Shoveller		4	Townsend's Solitaire		1
Am. Golden-eye	2		Common Starling	19	4
Am. Merganser	5	2	House Sparrow	47	55
Rough-legged Hawk	4		Western Meadowlark	65	18
Bald Eagle	1		Red-winged Blackbird	61	50
Marsh Hawk	4	4	Cardinal*	1	
Prairie Falcon	3		House Finch		2
Pigeon Hawk	1		Common Redpoll	1	
Greater Prairie Chicken*	15		American Goldfinch	24	
Scaled Quail(introd.)		32	White-winged Junco	12	
Bob-white*	17		Slate-colored Junco	44	
Ring-necked Pheasant	22	17	Oregon Junco	578	62
Killdeer	3	2	Am. Tree Sparrow	750	132
Wilson's Snipe	5		White-crowned Sparrow	2	5
Herring Gull	2		Song Sparrow	14	2
Horned Owl	1		Lapland Longspur	23	
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	McCown's Longspur*	2	
Red-shafted Flicker	1	22	Longspurs(species?)	75	
Lewis's Woodpecker		3			
Downy Woodpecker	2		Number of species:	38	30
Horned Lark	2929				
Steller's Jay		32	Party Hours:	9	7
Am. Magpie	34	103	Parties:	2	1
Am. Crow	1		Observers:	3	3
Black-capped Chickadee	28	9	Date:	Dec. 27	Jan. 2

Observers: Crook - H. R. Jones, R. A. Ryder, D. Wilson
Fort Collins - Robert E. Lamb, Tom Semerad, Victoria Semerad

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Roger Tory Peterson is revising his "Field Guide to Western Birds" and will welcome any suggestions for increasing its usefulness. He requests that notes be on 3x5 cards, one species on a card, and that the writer sign each card with name and address, for credit and further checking, if necessary. Cards may be sent to him at: Neck Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut, or to Donald Thatcher, 2916 Perry Street, Denver, 12.

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When driving through open country, one often finds moderately large birds sitting on wires and poles. Stocky birds are usually meadowlarks. There are two common long, thin birds. The one with a small head is usually a Mourning Dove while the one with a large head is a Sparrow Hawk. The small brown birds which flush from the road are probably Horned Larks and the black ones with white wing patches(in spring) are Lark Buntings, Colorado's State bird.

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

The general scarcity of winter birds reported last month for the mountains continues, as well as that of several species usually common on the plains near Denver. Mrs. Ona Scudder, Georgetown, reports (Feb. 5) one each of three Juncoes: Oregon, Slate-colored and Gray-headed at her feeders, where usually they are numerous; Rosy Finches, as reported in Januaru, are still numerous (35, including 2 Blacks). R. J. Niedrach reports that Robins are unusually common in or near southeast Denver, including a flock of about 14 at his place, 3 miles east of Littleton, all winter; the writer and others still find Robins scarce elsewhere(see Field Trip and Population Studies reports). Mountain Chickadees were regular visitors at suet at my home(NW Denver) until Feb. 5 but have not been observed since except one or two today(Feb. 18) with the snowstorm, although they are still common in deciduous woods nearer the mountains (Clear Creek east of Golden, Feb. 12 and Red Rocks Park, Feb. 13). Black-capped Chickadees, however, which are usually common in winter, have not been noted since Nov. 13. Mr. Niedrach, on the other hand, reports several Black-caps about all winter, but no Mountains, at his home. Brown Creeper(last, Jan 22) and White-breasted(Jan.17) seem to have left the city. A most unusual occurrence is reported by R. J. N. of a flock of about 30 Common Redpolls seen briefly at his home, Feb. 18; further reports of this species will be much appreciated.

There is evidence of northward migration: two Mountain Bluebirds being the first song birda noted(below). Notable increase since Feb. 13 of several ducks at Bowles Lake: American Merganser, Pintail and Green-winged Teal, and decrease of American Widgeon, are reported by E. D. McKee(Feb. 15). American Goldeneyes increased at Berkeley Lake(NW Denver) from 4-8 through January and early February to 35, Feb. 12(DMT).

Other reported observations:

Whistling Swan - 2 11/14 Jumbo Reservoir(Logan County)(R.Ryder)
Ross's Goose - 1 all fall to mid-January near Fort Collins(R.R.)
Hooded Merganser - 1 11/16 Jumbo Res.(R.R.)
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 2/2(Mrs. A.H.Crow), 1 2/12(DMThatcher) N.W. Denver
Pigeon Hawk - reported January at Lowry Air Force Base, should have been Lowry Bombing Range(20 miles S.E.) (J.Flavin)
Dowitcher - 1 1/4 Clear Creek at Sheridan Blvd.(NW of Denver)(R.Olson)
Mourning Dove - 2 all winter - Cherry Hills(R.J.Niedrach); 2 12/30 Fitzsimons Hospital (L.Galloway); 1 1/13 near Loveland(RR)
Short-eared Owl - 1 1/22 Barr Lake(RR)
Say's Phoebe - 1 all Dec. & Jan. until reported(1/18)(Oppie Reames)
Horned Lark - started singing - reported 2/15 SE of Denver(JF)
Steller's Jay - one about all winter which imitates perfectly both Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle(RJN)
Common Raven - 1 1/29, 1/30 Genesee Mountain Park(DT)
Canyon Wren - in full song 2/13 Red Rocks Park (J.Jetensky, DT)
American Robin - 1 2/6, 2/11 Golden(J&MDouglass); 3 1/27 Berkeley Park,Denver and 1 2/3 Lakewood(DMT)
Western Bluebird - "numerous", Durango, December(OR)
Mountain Bluebird - 1 1/30 Cherry Creek, SE of Denver(J.Chapin-Club trip);1 2/13 Alameda Pkwy, Green Mtn. (JJ,DMT)
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 1/22 SE Denver(JC); only 1 seen at Genesee Mtn. Park, 10 trips, Dec. 24 to Feb. 6, unusually scarce(DMT)
Water Pipit - 1 2/13 S. Platte R. near Englewood(Same reported last month)(JJ,DMT)
Gray Shrike 1 1/27 Broomfield, 1 2/13 near Loveland(J&MD); 1 2/13 Morrison(JJ,DMT)
Common Starling - 2 flocks 1000 each, 440 other in 20 occurrences; 1/27 Golden-Brighton-Barr Lake & return(J&MD); 150 through Jan., Feb., Berkeley Park (DMT); carrying nest material 2/16 Cherry Hills(RJN)
Red-winged Blackbird - flock 1000 & 850 others in 10 occurrences, mostly females, Barr Lake vicinity 1/27(J&MD); none Clear Creek(cattails)(DMT), 2/13 Bowles Lake and S. Platte River(S.of Denver)(JJ,DMT)
Spotted Towhee - 3 2/5 S. of Morrison(J&MD); 4 2/13 Red Rocks(JJ, DMT)

---D. M. Thatcher

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to Hughes Ranch, south of Denver, January 15, led by Sadie Morrison, had excellent weather and was attended by eleven people. Twenty-one species were found, including one Horned Owl, but nothing unusual. All of the Juncos were seen: White-winged(9), Slate-colored(10), Pink-sided Oregon(11), other Oregons(2), and Gray-headed(4).

Six attended the Cherry Creek trip, January 30, led by John Chapin. Of unusual interest were a Mountain Bluebird(wintering or migrant?), a Scrub Jay, and several Mountain Chickadees. Birds of prey were Horned Owl and Red-tailed, Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks. Robins and Mourning Doves were expected, but were not found.

Buryl Cummins led the trip to Red Rocks and Morrison, Feb. 12, with nine people and good weather, and reports that much effort was required to find 15 species in that area. A Dipper, four Canyon Wrens and only one Townsend's Solitaire were seen. The only Juncos were 6 Pink-sided Oregons. Robins were conspicuously absent, as compared with a year ago.

ORGANIZATION OF COLORADO BIRD CLUB, 1954-1955

President: John Flavin
Vice-Pres.: John Douglass
Recording Secretary: Mrs. T. L. DeMent
Corresponding Secretary: Catherine Hurlbutt
Treasurer: Leonard Licht

Directors:
1953-1955: Mrs. A. H. Crow & Lillian Wangnild
1954-1956: James Humphrey & Ben Pfretszchner
Ex-officio: John Chapin

The Colorado Bird Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except June, July and August at 8 P.M., in the Bird Room of the Denver Museum of Natural History. Field trips are scheduled for all months of the year. All interested persons are welcome to attend meetings and trips.

"Colorado Bird Notes", the Club's Bulletin, is issued monthly(bi-monthly in the summer) ten times each year during the week before the monthly meeting. Contributions of articles, news, and bird observations are desired and should be sent by the tenth of the month to Donald M. Thatcher, 2916 Perry St., Denver 12, Colorado(GL 5-7479).

Club dues are $2.00 per year, payable at the beginning of the club year(September) Subscriptions to Colorado Bird Notes for non-members are $1.00. Dues and subscriptions may be sent to the treasurer, Mr. Leonard Licht, 1637 Filbert Court, Denver 20.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. John Chapin announce the birth of a daughter, Anne Tait, January 26.

Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Anna Marvin, 339 Bannock St., whose husband, Alfred C. Marvin, passed away Monday, February 14.

Mr. Robert Glover has left Denver for a new position with the Boeing Company. His address: Claremont Hotel, 4th and Virginia Streets, Seattle Washington.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1955

February

20 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Genesee Mountain Park. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet at Main Library (Civic Center). Transp. 50¢

22 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification Session - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - "Bird Life on an Atoll", with colored slides from a 1954 expedition, by Edwin D McKee, of U.S. Geological Survey
"Colorado Birds", movies by Joseph E. Taylor.
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(Please use north (employees') entrance)

27 (Sun.) See below

March

13 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Barr Lake and vicinity. Leonard Licht, leader (DE3-2837). Meet at Colorado and Montview Blvds. Transp. 50¢

22 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History

26 (Sat.) Planned trip to Standley Lake may have to be changed. Details next month.

Transportation charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.
Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings and field trips.

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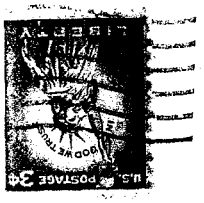
Articles and observation notes are wanted for the bulletin.
Please send or 'phone by the tenth of the month.

NOTICE--Because of storm, trip to Genesee Mountain or, if preferred, to Georgetown (for Rosy Finches) will be made Sunday, Feb. 27. Same time & place.

Miss Ruth Tollefson
3940 W. 37th Avenue
Denver 11
Colorado



Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 7 March 1955

HORACE G. SMITH

This issue of the NOTES is dedicated to our distinguished Life Member, Horace G. Smith, affectionately known as "Dad" by many of his younger colleagues. "Dad" Smith will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 22, and he could probably claim, unchallenged, the title of Colorado's oldest ornithologist, were he not preoccupied with the festivities of the occasion, such as sending greetings by tape recording to his younger relatives in Illinois.

"Dad" Smith was born near Waukegon, Illinois, in 1865, and moved to Denver with his parents in 1872. "Dad" recalls that,upon their arrival, his father, who had established a residence in Denver previously, purchased a wheelbarrow and a table, and the family set out on foot for the farm in what is now the 2900 block on Lafayette Street, which was to be Horace's home for the next three-quarters of a century. The outdoor life particularly agreed with the boy, and his mother encouraged his inclination toward the study of natural history, with the result that he wrote his first published article on this subject at the age of 14. In those early days there were still wide gaps in the knowledge of western ornithology, and Horace was soon using in his ramblings his expert markmanship to secure specimens of bird life which he learned to prepare and classify with scientific accuracy and built into a valuable collection. He was responsible for identifying 14 species of birds new to Colorado records at that time. During these years he also contributed numerous articles to the Auk, the Oologist, and other publications. These activities brought him wide recognition as an authority on birds of the Rocky Mountain region, and he made numerous acquaintances among such naturalists as Elliott Coues, William L. Sclater, William Bergtold, Fred M. Dille, E. R. Warren, Denis Gale, Robert Rockwell, and other pioneer ornithologists. Consequently, he was among that group which founded the State Historical and Natural History Society in 1900. He served the Society for 16 years as Assistant Curator and in other capacities, and while thus engaged traveled widely in Colorado collecting specimens and making extensive field notes. When the Colorado Museum of Natural History was formed, he continued his association with that organization for many years, contributing his wide experience and knowledge to the work of identifying and classifying the numerous specimens in the Museum's collection.

Serious bird students perusing the early publications on western ornithology which are still an indispensable part of the present-day naturalist's library will be impressed at the frequent references to Mr. Smith's observations. His accuracy as an observer, together with his attention to details and ability as a writer, earned for him the respect and admiration of his colleagues, who referred frequently and with confidence to his records. Today, though the years have dimmed his keen sense of sight and his hearing, he retains in memory the wealth of information accumulated over the years, and can recall the date and occasion on which he detected a new subspecies of House Finch or the details of a collecting expedition undertaken over Berthoud Pass by wagon in 1894.

"Dad" has seen Denver grow from a small western settlement to a thriving metropolis, and recalls Washington Park when it was just a natural lake in the midst of virgin prairie, frequented by foxes and other wildlife which has long since retreated before mushrooming subdivisions and shopping centers. He remembers that Buffalo Bill Cody once lived in his community and recalls George Clayton, the philanthropist, who always drove one black horse and one white one for his carriage team. "Dad" has been content to spend his entire career studying and classifying the wildlife of his adopted state, and last September went outside its borders for the first time in 82 years.

visiting relatives and school friends in Chicago, among whom was Lafayette Hanchett, noted mining engineer and author of "The Old Sheriff," a true account of his early-day experiences at Idaho Springs and elsewhere. The two old friends had great times swapping yarns about their teachers and classmates in the old Stout Street School, and reminiscing about old times.

Today "Dad" lives at 1457 St. Paul Street with his friends, Henry and Margaret Blom, where he is always glad to welcome old friends and entertain new ones with his recollections of an exciting and vanished era which holds a fascination even for those who never had an opportunity to take part in it. He is a reminder to us all that we need not go far afield to find something profitable and worthwhile to study, and that even such a long life as his cannot exhaust the wonders that Nature has in store for those who give time and attention to studying her secrets. On the occasion of his 90th birthday, we salute the Colorado Bird Club's own "Dad" Smith, and extend our heartiest felicitations.

--- Catherine A. Hurlbutt

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

March 3, 1955: The past month, with its almost continuous cold, seemed to hold the bird population quite static. The Oregon Juncos, all Pink-sided, remained about in varied numbers, and are numerous today(Mar. 3); they are singing at times, although very weakly. During the severe blizzard of Feb. 18 - 19, a few took shelter in the barns and sheds; one shared a shed with a stray cat and upon the remival of the cat, the Junco at once alighted on the floor and began scratching and feeding industriously within 3 feet of where we were working, removing snow. Tree Sparrows were here in small numbers during the storm and are still about, in smaller numbers than during most of the winter; they were first noted singing Feb. 12 and now sing some every nice day.

The Horned Larks are singing, but no flight songs have been heard as yet. They are mating or are already mated at this time but, apparently, so far no territories have been established. The Meadowlark was first heard singing Feb. 10 but is still generally silent. The Gray Shrike started "singing" Feb. 21. It has not been seen since Feb. 28, so may be gone now; the last seen last year was Jan. 29.

The Alaska Lapland Longspurs are still here, but are working northward; only small numbers should be seen from now on. A Pine Siskin, rare, was here briefly on Feb. 21 just after the blizzard.

A Raven was seen in the canyons Feb. 15 in company with 20 or more Magpies. The Sparrow Hawk remains about here, but only one, perhaps the same, is seen at a time. The Pheasant that has been here all fall and winter is still about; his tracks were seen in the mud yesterday.

Golden Eagles occur commonly. Just after the blizzard, one was engaged in scaring the Jack Rabbits from their resting places along the edges of the canyons, chasing them for a short way and then going back to find more. Three were seen at one time running past the buildings, all very much frightened. A Horned Owl was seen sitting on eggs Feb. 15; it is still setting at this time.

One trip was made to Weldona(21-mile round trip) and one 10-mile round trip through pastures yesterday, all over different roads!

	Weldona Trip Feb. 10	Pasture Trip Mar. 2
Rough-Legged Hawk	4	3
Marsh Hawk	1	1
Sparrow Hawk	1	0
Golden Eagle	1	1
Horned Lark	100-200	20-30
Common Raven	2	0
Magpie	15	3
House Sparrow	10	8(at house)
Western Meadowlark	20	3
Red-winged Blackbird	150-200	0
American Tree Sparrow	20	10
Pink-sided Oregon Junco	6	5(at house)
Lapland Longspur	3	0

The first migrant of the year, a Killdeer, arrived Feb. 18, during the blizzard, the earliest ever recorded here; its usual date is about the middle of March or even a little later. Eight Mountain Bluebirds, the second migrant species, arrived today; this is an average date for the species.

Twenty Red-winged Blackbirds, which have not been here for at least two months, also were seen today. Thousands of Red-wings and Mallards wintered in the valley both east and west of Weldona this year, the former blackening the sky at times.

FINDING BIRDS IN MEXICO

Anyone planning a birding trip to Mexico will be interested in a new 101-page publication by Ernest P. Edwards, "Finding Birds in Mexico." The book describes the climate, vegetation, topography and bird life of all the parts of Mexico, with, for the list-builder, special attention to those species of birds not occurring in the United States. Included is a check list of about 950 species occurring in Mexico, an illustrated descriptive key to 80 Mexican species and information on routes of travel, tourist accommodations and camping places. It can be obtained from E. P. Edwards and Co., Amherst, Virginia, for $1.90.

CORRECTIONS: February issue

Page 6 - Mourning Dove and Common Starling - change Cherry Hills to "3 miles east of Littleton"

Say's Phoebe - add "Durango"

Red-winged Blackbird - read "none 2/12 Clear Creek"

Reverse numbers of pages numbered 5 and 7.

Look for Ravens higher in the mountains than Crows. Ravens fly like Hawks, they croak while crows caw, they have wedge-shaped tails. They soar on horizontal wings. They are much larger than crows.

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

Although the latter part of the winter was much colder than those of the last three or four years, no great delay in early migration is apparent, some species appearing as early this year as last. Mean temperatures for January were about three degrees above normal and for February 5 degrees below, as compared with last year's January, plus 7 degrees, and February, plus 10 degrees. The unusual steady cold which characterized this winter caused continued freezing of the lakes about Denver which lasted until about March 8 or 9; Rocky Mountain Lake was entirely frozen and Marston, Sloan's and Berkeley each had only one small opening where ducks and gulls congregated and were easily observed.

Winter birds are still as scarce in the foothills as noted in the last two months' reports. Mountain Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers are seen occasionally in the city.

Following are reported observations. See also trip reports and Weldona Notes. (* indicates scheduled club trip.)

Horned Grebe - 2 3/13 Marston Lake(John & Margaret Douglass)
Eared Grebe - 3 3/13 Marston L.(JD, MD)
Great Blue Heron - 2 2/16 Bowles L.(E.D.McKee)
White-fronted Goose - 1 reported several times between 1/16 and 3/2 Bowles Lake, with flock Canada Geese(EDMc,R.Ryder,D.M.Thatcher)
Mallard - 500-1200 Berkeley L. all winter until about 3/14, about 50 remain 3/15
200-300 wintered Sloan's L., about 150 3/15,17(DMT)
Shoveller - About 20, Sloan's Lake, Jan.-Feb., increased Mar. 1 to 100-200, about 20 remain 3/17 (DMT)
100-300 Berkeley L. since Nov. Very few remain 3/15(DMT)
Cinnamon Teal - 1 male 3/13 Marston L.(JD,MD)
2 3/13 Mile-High Lakes*
Wood Duck - male reported several times between 1/8 & 3/13 Bowles L.(JD,MD,EDM,RR)
Redhead - 8-30 Berkeley L. 3/1 to 3/15(DMT, R.Olsen)
12 Sloan's L. 3/1(DMT)
Ringnecked Duck - 1 3/7, 4 3/15 Berkeley L.(DMT,RO)
Canvas-back - 1F 2/12,19; 2 pr. 3/9 Berkeley L.(DMT)
Lesser Scaup - 4 3/9 Berkeley L., 4 3/16,17 Federal Center(DMT)
American Goldeneye - (See Feb. report) Berkeley L. 35 2/12, fewer 2/14 to 3/9; 1 F 3/15(DMT)
Red-breasted Merganser - 3 3/13 Bowles L.(JD,MD)
Bald Eagle - 1 3/8 Bonny Dam(Yuma Co.)(RR)
Herring Gull - 40 Jan.-Feb. Berk. L. & Sloan's L.; last 2 seen Berk. L. 3/7 (DMT)
Ringbilled Gull - about 75 wintered Nov.-Feb. Berk. & Sloan's L; last 10 2/26 Sloan's (DMT)
Pygmy Owl - 1 3/6 Hygiene(JD,MD)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 1/16 near Weldona(EDMc)
Common Raven - 4 2/27 Georgetown*(DT,JFlavin); 2 2/27 Loveland Pass(RR); 1 3/6 East Portal Moffat Tunnel(RR); 1 3/13 Genesee Mtn Park(DMT)
Long-billed Marsh Wren - 1 2/27 3 miles east of Golden(JD,MD)
American Robin - 4 2/18 NW Den.(Mrs. A.H.Crow); 12 2/24 Berk.Park(first flock)(DMT)
3/3 generally distributed but not abundant in Denver(DMT)
3/15 100 plus Berkeley Park(DMT,RO)
Mountain Bluebird - Plains - (See Feb. report)
460 M(4 flocks, one of 300) also 3 singles 3/6 along foothills Golden to Loveland(JD,MD)
first female 3/13 Morrison(JD,MD)
250(about 5% females) 3/15 Berkeley Park in snowstorm(DMT,RO)
6 3/8 near Cope(Washington Co)(RR)
Mountains - 4 males 3/12 Bergen Park(JD,MD); 1M 3/13 Gen.Mtn.Pk.(DMT)

BIRDS OF THE MONTH -Continued

Starling - (See Feb. report) 3/7 winter flocks dispersed along foothills - north of Denver(JD,MD)
Flock at Berkeley Park dispersed about 2/15, 3 or 4 pairs where only one last year, none the year before(DMT)
Red-winged Blackbird - 2/26 Barr L. vicinity, 2 flocks of 1000 mostly males; 1 flock 100 mostly females(JD,MD)

First appeared 3/1 W. of Denver, where other years common all winter. General distribution by 3/7(DMT)
Pine Siskin - 1 2/20 S. of Morrison* - (only 1 noted since 12/26 by DMT)
3 3/11 Golden - first ones noted this winter(JD,MD)
Spotted Towhee - 3 in full song 3/13 Red Rocks Park(DMT)
Lapland Longspur - several thousand moving north 1/16 near Welcona(EDMc)

---D. M. Thatcher

TRIP REPORTS

Because of the low temperature, zero at 8:30 A. M., and fresh snow, the trip scheduled for Genesee Mountain, Feb. 20, was changed to the South Platte Valley, thence to Bowles Lake and to Morrison and vicinity, with only two people attending. Thirty-three species were found. Most interesting were eight Snipe and a flock of 10 or 12 Water Pipits at the river near Englewood.

Three made the trip to Georgetown, February 27, stopping at the homes of the Scudders and the Andersons. Apparently because of the unusually mild weather, no Rosy Finches appeared at their feeders. Ten other species were seen including four Common Ravens together. Highlight of the trip was a herd of 15 Bighorn Sheep near the roadside east of Georgetown.

On March 13, four attended the trip to Barr Lake and Mile High Lakes, led by Leonard Licht. Thirty-one species were seen, of which the most unusual was a Yellow-shafted(or hybrid) Flicker. Migrants seen were Cinnamon Teal(2), Redhead(100), Water Pipit(4), Robin(5), and Mountain Bluebird(7).

---D. M. Thatcher

Note to Easterners who have come west----Don't expect to find Song Sparrows in the same habitats as in the East. The Song Sparrow here is a bird of the marsh or low, wet thickets. This applies also generally to the Yellowthroat. Also, House Wrens are not town birds here in the West. They prefer gullies, canyons and thickets, but may be found around buildings in the foothills.

Certain birds bounce as they fly. The two groups which do this most are the Woodpeckers and the Finches.

Others teeter or bob while standing. Spotted Sandpipers are teeterers and so are Waterthrushes. Dippers bob up and down. Certain Warblers constantly flick their tails

A "sandpiper" that swims usually turns out to be a Phalarope. In spring, the bright-colored Phalaropes are females.

----J. L. C.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH - APRIL, 1955

March

22 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification Session - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - "Birds of San Luis Valley", talk, with slides, by Ronald Ryder
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park
(Please use north (employees!) entrance)

26 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Pierce Road and Bax Ranch (near Morrison)
Sadie Morrison, leader (MA3-0840). Meet W. Colfax & Sheridan Blvd.
Transportation, 50¢

April

2 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Clear Creek and vicinity; near Golden. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924). Meet 46th & Sheridan Blvd. Transp 30¢

16 (Sat.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Longmont vicinity. John & Margaret Douglass. leaders (Golden 1179-W). Meet 46th & Sheridan. Bring lunch.
Transportation, $1.00.

17 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field trip - Barr Lake. John Flavin, leader (PL5-1744)
Meet Montview & Colorado Blvds. Transp. 75¢.

24 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip - Red Rocks and Genesee Mountain Parks. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet Main Library, Civic Center. Transp 50¢.

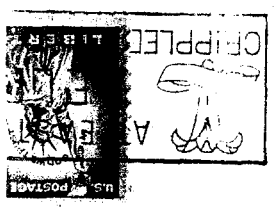
26 (Tues.) 7PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting Denver Museum of Natural History

30 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Barr Lake. Phyllis Caswell, leader. (PE3-7451)
Meet Montview & Colorado Blvds. Transp. 75¢.

Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings and field trips.
Transportation charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.

Mrs. Russ Mace
33 to W 37th Ave
Denver 11

Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.



COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 8 April 1955

THE DIPPER OR WATER OUZEL

by Margaret Douglass

The Ainu of Japan believe that the heart of the Water Ouzel is very wise and the speech of the bird, most eloquent. He who swallows the heart of an Ouzel before it has cooled or suffered damage will, therefore, become wise and fluent, and his words will prevail over those of his adversaries. And although we don't quite believe such tales of his magic, we, too, pause beside the rushing stream and wonder at this melodious little songster in the spray.

The Dipper gets his official name from his habit of bobbing up and down as if he were on a spring. But he's often called a "Water Ouzel". "Ouzel" is an old Anglo-Saxon word for thrush. There's a Water Ouzel in the highlands of Scotland, much like ours. In fact, Water Ouzels are found in Europe, temperate Asia, Western North America, and thence southward through the Andes into Argentina. All the members of the family(Cinclidae) are very similar in general appearance. All are rather drab, with the predominant gray or brown of their feathers unrelieved by conspicuous markings. The young of the Old World species are spotted like young thrushes, but those of the New World are plain. The dippers show affinities to both the thrushes and the wrens, but are more like the latter in body form and general appearance.

Only one subspecies of the Dipper(Cinclus mexicanus unicolor) is common in the United States, although the Mexican Dipper(C.m.mexicanus) occasionally occurs in the southern mountain ranges of the Southwest. The American Dipper is found from the Rocky Mountains (including the Black Hills) to the Pacific Coast and from Alaska to the Mexican border. He lives in mountain areas where the water is clear, cold, and unpolluted and he migrates only from the high mountains to the lower mountains or foothills in the winter when the streams freeze over. Both the male and female Dippers have a gray-brown head and neck and a uniformly slate-gray body. The young birds are like the adults except that they are somewhat paler and have underparts mottled with very pale or buffy white; the chin and throat are whitish and the greater wing coverts narrowly tipped with light gray. Both old and young have white eyelids which show plainly among their dark feathers.

The Dipper is a lover of swift streams. He haunts the rapids and waterfalls where the spray flies over him. Occasionally he'll be seen in a mountain lake or a beaver pond, but he is more often found by moving waters. When he is disturbed, he usually flies along the zig-zag course of his stream as if loathe to leave it for a more direct route over dry ground. In his favored habitat he is completely at home. He may walk into a shallow pond where the water is as much asthree feet above his head, then bob up to the surface and swim ashore like a little duck. Or he may stand unperturbed in a riffle picking caddis fly larvae off the bottom of the stream while the rushing water arcs over him like a transparent shell. He may dive into the middle of the swiftest current and emerge a little distance up or down stream as if by a miracle. Often he uses his stubby wings to propel him under water with the same quick movement with which they beat the thinner air.

Though he is usually about the important business of seeking food, his aquatic acrobatics are sometimes merely fun. Once while I was hiking with a friend in the mountains near Loveland, we witnessed a miniature aquacade. We were walking down a narrow and secluded little canyon cut between walls of granite. The stream was small,

but cold and tumultuous - a series of sparkling waterfalls and rapids. In one place it had enlarged a crevice into a V-shaped trough about 13 feet long and a foot wide. The water rushed down this incline at a thirty-five degree angle and splashed into a smooth basin below. As we came upon the site, we saw eight Dippers playing in the stream, and we sat and watched their fun for more than an hour. One bird would fly to the top of the incline, dive into the water, and plane down the chute. When he reached the pond, he would glide beneath its surface with wings extended, fly under the water a short distance, and then come up near his companions with an explosive splash. Sometimes he would emerge directly under a bird swimming on the surface. Then there would be a tumult of splashing and talking, and another bird would go to the top to begin the game again. Occasionally two birds would be in the chute at the same time and sometimes one bird would go down backwards. The rest would be swimming and splashing in the pool or bobbing up and down on the rocks. Occasionally one would wander off to feed a bit and then return. During the whole performance there was a great deal of talking and singing. The Dippers wereapparently just enjoying the water and each other's company.

A. C. Bent states that young Dippers "seem to know instinctively, as soon as they leave the nest, how to run, climb, dive and swim, or flutter along the surface of the water." However, the youngsters I watched in the Big Thompson Canyon seemed to need instruction in the art of riding currents. There were just two youngsters, and each parent had charge of one. The adult and the baby would stand side by side on a rock in the river. First the parent would chatter exvitedly. Then with some not-too-gentle urging the baby would plunge into the water, flounder a bit, and then climb back on the rock. The adult would then dive in, ride the current a little way as if giving a demonstration, and then fly back to the rock and push the reluctant youngster in. Four days later the babies were on their own, swimming and catching bugs as profi- ciently as the adults.

The Dipper is well adapted for the life he leads. He has a thick, dense covering of feathers over his entire body with an abundant coat of underdown. Thus he is not only water-proofed, but insulated. He seems oblivious to cold. Even on frigid winter mornings he can be seen bobbing around in his favorite stream between ice-covered banks. One January morning I watched a Dipper in the shallow waters of the lower Big Thompson River. He was feeding in the open water near a large sheet of ice. He dived under the ice repeatedly. Once he did not emerge from beneath it for a minute and thirty-five seconds. He must have come up under the ice to breathe during that time, but apparently the cold roof did not perturb him.

The Dipper preens his thick feathers frequently; he is well-equipped to dress them, for the oil gland at the base of his tail is about ten times as large as that of related land-dwelling birds of similar size. His stout but tapered body, short tail, and short, rounded wings are well adapted for movement in swift waters and his stout legs and feet are useful both for gripping rocks and for swimming. His toes aren't webbed but they are long. Each nostril is covered by a movable scale which can be used to exclude water when the need arises. His eye can be covered by a "third eye- lid" or nictitating membrane, which the bird frequently winks; but whether or not this is used to protect the eye under water is debatable. Probably it is used to clear the eye of spray while the bird is near falls and rapids.

The Dipper's affinity for his stream carries over into his home life. He usually builds his unique little nest where the spray from the stream will reach it. The typical nest is a dome-shaped hut woven from the mosses and grasses of the stream. However, the nest is sometimes built of other materials. When I was living in the mountains, I watched a pair of Dippers in their nest on a timber supporting a busy bridge. The nest was solidly built of sticks, grass and mud. During the first sum- mer it was a rough hemisphere about nine inches in diameter with a round entrance, two inches in diameter, on one side. The next year the nest was occupied again. This time it was completely covered with new green moss. The third year it was again re- modeled with moss, and by this time it was a sizable structure. Nests are often placed

on a rock or stump in the stream or on a cliff beside a waterfall. Sometimes the moss of which they are built stays green in the spray and forms a perfect camouflage. More than once I have had to hunt diligently for a nest although I knew its approximate location.

Most of the nest-building apparently is done by the female. When the nest is finished she lays three to six pure white eggs, somewhat pointed on the small end. She incubates the eggs for thirteen days. The male may feed her, but he doesn't help with the incubation. After the young are hatched, they spend about eighteen days in the nest and then file out to explore the wonders of the stream. They acquire the ability to fly, swim, and dive very quickly, but are sometimes fed for a while by the adults. In midsummer family groups of Dippers aren't uncommon although the bird is otherwise rather solitary. I have come upon such a family feeding and talking together in a tiny mountain stream quite a distance from their nest in the river.

In many parts of their range Dippers may raise two broods in a season, but it is hardly likely that there is time for this in northern regions. The families I have watched in the Colorado mountains apparently were content with one nesting.

The Dipper's food is made up of the animal miscellany the stream provides. He is fond of caddis-fly and mosquito larvae, water bugs, water beetles, and other insects. The spawn and fry of fish are also taken; and although the Dippers probably don't harm natural fish populations, they can do considerable harm in hatchery ponds where the fry are easy prey. Consequently, the bird is sometimes shot by man.

However, man usually finds the little gray fellow too amusing and aesthetically too attractive to molest him directly. Man harms the Ouzel indirectly when he pollutes the streams; the bird will not live in polluted waters. The predators of the stream - water snakes, weasels, minks, martens, skunks, and others - prey on the mothers and young.

The song of the Dipper is fluid, liquid, and melodious. He sings frequently - even in winter. He ignores the weather and pours forth a torrent of song while other birds sit huddled and fluffed up, brooding out the cold. The song is heard least in August and September, especially during the molt. It starts again in the early winter and reaches its peak in spring and early summer. Then the male sings almost constantly, and his liquid music mingling with the tumult of snow-born water is a fitting ode to the joy of the mountain Spring.

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WELDONA NOTES

By Howard Rollin

APRIL 3:- Again, the past month(from Mar. 3 to today) has seen little in the way of bird activity. The American Tree Sparrows, which have spent the winter here, are still about, however today only 4 or 5 remain after the sandstorm from the south of yesterday. The same holds true for the Oregon Junco; Pink-sided common all winter, one Shufeldt seen occasionally and todayone Montana was noted with certainty. A very few Red-winged Blackbirds continued to stray in but they are certainly rare, since so many winter 10 or 12 miles south of here. Mountain Bluebirds were about until March 26, but no more than 11 were seen at any one time. Killdeer are very scarce and have been seen only twice in March, 17 and 20. The Robin was seen only March 13 and 15; it was here Jan. 29 last year. The last Alaska Lapland Longspur was seen Mar. 21, and the only McCown Longspurs seen were one flock of about 25 - 30, March 21. The Gray Shrike was still here yesterday, April 2 and may still be present; it is still feeding on mice from the stacks and a plentiful and easy-to-get food is no doubt the reason it is staying so long this year. No Sparrow Hawks have been noted in the past month after they were about off and on all winter. The Rough-legged Hawk is still here, though scarce. Golden Eagles are seen almost every day. The Horned Owl Has young and seems to be the only bird nesting at this time although the House Sparrows are building.

Mar.4 - one Starling here briefly.
Mar. 6 - American Tree Sparrows singing commonly.
Mar. 8 - Termites swarming and Mountain Bluebirds feeding on them.
Mar. 9 - A Downy Woodpecker, rare here.
Mar. 10 - A Red-shafted Flicker, also rare.
Mar. 13 - One Ferruginous Hawk today.
Oregon Juncos, American Tree Sparrows, Meadowlarks and Horned Larks all singing.
Mar. 18 - One Crow passed, very rare here.
Mar. 20 - Seven unidentified ducks passed,(smaller then Mallards and larger than Teal).
Mar. 23 - Meadowlarks singing along the creek, the first noted other than at the house.
The Juncos and Tree Sparrows all bubbling over with song.
Mar. 28 - Horned Larks performing their flight but so far no song heard.

During this time only one trip was made to town, with the following birds noted, March 11, 38-mile round trip:

Rough-legged Hawk	4	House Sparrow	25 - 30
Horned Larks	25 - 30	Meadowlark	20
Magpie	20	Am. Tree Sparrow	15
Starling	1	Oregon Junco	5 at house

The extremely dry weather is no doubt a factor in the movement of the birds on the plains here(or should it be desert?). The only really normal movement of any of the birds is that of the Horned Larks, which are spread out over their usual territories, but they are all very backward in singing, and are usually performing their flight songs commonly by this time. To date, only two were seen to climb upward high into the air but no songs were heard.

SPRING BIRD COUNT, 1955

In the past three years, a Spring Bird Count has been made in the Denver area, with the object of finding, by one party of observers, as many species as possible in one long day. In 1952, 119 species were recorded by two observers; in 1953, 143 by five observers; and in 1954, a party of six found 119 species. Last year's count was relatively low, partly because of adverse weather, but mostly because the peak of migration was missed by several days, due to the early spring.

This year it is proposed to make the count more of a regional survey, on Saturday May 21, to be participated in by a large number of observers or parties, throughout the State of Colorado. The help of individuals or clubs at other places than Denver, including Colorado Springs, Boulder, Durango, Grand Junction, Sterling and Loveland, is being solicited. Several parties composed of members of this Club will attempt to cover from Barr Lake south about to Palmer Lake and from the Continental Divide and Mt. Evans east to the Kansas line(Bonny Reservoir). Each party will cover a different area(its favorite one, if possible). Coverage should be more thorough and less strenuous than that of the past three years. Counting and recording should be similar in all respects to those of the Christmas Count, except that there will be no restriction on the size of the area to be covered and no minimum time requirement for those whose available time in the field might be limited. To obtain the best count, parties should be in the field as early in the morning as possible, preferably before sunup, except for counting shore birds.

All who are interested should notify John Chapin, 2441 South Dahlia Lane, Denver (SK 6- 2200) stating their preferences as to area, whether they have, need, or can furnish transportation and what hour they can start. Results should be reported promptly to John Chapin, to be summarized for the next Colorado Bird Notes.

BIRDS OF THE MONTH
By Donald M. Thatcher

As this Spring has been somewhat cooler than those of the last two or three years early migration has been somewhat slower than in those years. Some species, however, have been seen as early as usual and a few arrivals have been earlier. Below are reports of early arrivals, unusual species or numbers and other activities. Many additional reports have been received, especially of water birds, which will be reported later when their peak migration has passed. (* asterisk indicates scheduled field trip.)

Red-necked(Holboell's) Grebe - 6 4/16 Longmont*
Horned Grebe - Breeding plumage 3/23 near Golden(J&MDouglass); 4 4/12 Berkeley L. Pied-billed Grebe - 1 present all winter(2/19) SE of Denver(J.Flavin) (D.M.Thatcher)
Double-crested Cormorant - 10 4/2 Longmont(J&MD); 1 4/8 Boulder(L. Crowley, D. Alexander); 18 4/9 Barr L.(L&R Galloway); 20 4/16 Longmont*; 4 4/9 SW Denver(DMT)
Great Blue Heron - 6 3/19 Standley L., 32 4/2 Hoffman L.(Boulder), 35 4/9 Standley L. (J&MD); c. 30 4/9 Barr L.(L&RG)
Snowy Egret - 1 4/8 Loveland(J&MD); 1 4/16 Longmont*
Black-crowned Night Heron - 45 4/9 Standley L.(J&MD)
Whistling Swan - 6 3/31 W. of Grand Junction(Colo. Fish & Game pilots); 1, 4/13 W. of Maybell(Moffat Co.)(R.Ryder)
White-fronted Goose - Wintering bird left Bowles L. about March 10(J&MD)
Snow Goose - 7 3/31 Merino(Weld Co.), 200 plus 4/6 Bonny Reservoir(RR)
Mallard - Wintering flock(c. 500) left Berkeley L. about 3/15, c. 30 remaining 3/19-3/26(DMT)
Pintail - 1000 or more, Standley L.(J&MD)
Red-breasted Merganser - 1M 3/19 Marston L.(R&LG)
Turkey Vulture - 1 3/19 Mt. Morrison(R&LG)

Goshawk - 1 3/12 near Berthoud Pass(RR)
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 4/5 SE Denver(JF); 1 4/6 Wash. Park(L&RG)
Cooper's Hawk - 1 4/9 Barr L.(L&RG)
Red-tailed Hawk - 4(possibly 7) migrating 3/19 Mt. Morrison(L&RG)
Swainson's Hawk - 1 4/17 Barr L.*
Rough-legged Hawk - 1 4/7 Longmont, 1 4/8 Wellington(J&MD)
Golden Eagle - Pr. nesting 4/2 near Franktown(JF); 9(flock) 4/9 N. of Boulder(LC); 3 4/16 Boulder *
Bald Eagle - 3 together(1 full-plumaged adult) 3/9 near Marston L.(L&RG)
Osprey - 1 4/17 Barr L.*
Prairie Falcon - Pr. nesting 4/2 near Franktown(JF)
Peregrine Falcon - 1 4/17 Barr L.*
Am. Sparrow Hawk - Several migrating near Franktown 4/2(JF); unusual numbers along foothills N. of Denver 4/8-10(J&MD)
Virginia Rail - 1 4/14 Clear Creek-McIntyre Rd.(J&MD)
Greater Yellowlegs - 1 4/15 Westminster(J&MD)
Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 4/8 Boulder(LC. DA); 3 4/20 Mud Lake(2 mi. NW of Denver)(DMT)
Pectoral Sandpiper - 6 4/2 Hoffman L.(Boulder)(J&MD)
Baird's Sandpiper - 5 3/27 Cherry Creek(SE of Denver)(JF); 2 3/23 Wash.Park, Denver (L&RG)
Western Sandpiper - 2 3/23,24 Wash. Park., 2 3/25 Cherry Creek,Denver(T.Marsh)
Am. Avocet - 6 4/6 Mead, Weld Co.(RR); 4 4/8 Boulder(LC,DA); 4/8 8 Wellington, 2 Loveland, 1 Longmont(J&MD); 1 4/9 Barr L.(L&RG); 20 4/20 Mud L.(DMT)
Franklin's Gull - 20 4/8 Boulder(LC,DA); 6 4/8 Fort Collins(J&MD)
Bonaparte's Gull - 8 4/8 Loveland(J&MD); 1 4/20 Rocky Mtn. L.,Denver(DMT)
Mourning Dove - Summer residents arrived 4/11 Denver(RJNiedrach)
Horned Owl - 1 4/10,12 NW Denver(DMT, Ben Moore)
Burrowing Owl - 1 4/16 1 mi. SE of Denver(JF)
White-throated Swift - 1 4/9 Left-hand Canyon N. of Boulder(LC)
FLICKER, hybrid - 1 3/27 yellow wing lining, red"whisker" marks, no red back of head (description fits Gilded Flicker) SE Denver(JF); 1 4/17 yellow shafts, other marks not seen, Barr L.*
Red-naped Common Sapsucker - 1 M 3/30 Broadway & Speer Blvd. Denver(TM)
Williamson's Sapsucker - 5M 4/16 Genesee Mtn Park(DMT, BM)
Cassin's Kingbird - 1 4/17 Golden(J&MD)
EASTERN PHOEBE - 1 4/8 Boulder(LC,DA)
Horned Lark - Large flocks in snow 3/9 Trinidad to Pueblo(DMT); 1 3/14 above 12,000 feet, Loveland Pass(RR)
Violet-green Swallow - 1 4/16 Longmont*
Bank Swallow - 5 4/17 Barr L.*
Barn Swallow - 3 4/21 Federal Center, Lakewood(DMT)
White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 3/9 Park Hill,Denver(TM)
Brown Creeper - 1 3/19 Park Hill(TM)
Marsh Wren - 2 4/1, 1 4/16 Clear Creek& McIntyre Rd.(J&MD)
BROWN THRASHER - 1 3/26 SW of Denver*
Am. Robin - 1 3/15 at 10,000', Rte.U.S.6 above Bakerville(RR); Nestbuilding 4/18 Littleton, Colo.(RJN)
Hermit Thrush - 1 4/16 Barr L.*
Western Bluebird - 8 4/10, 16 Genesee Mtn. Park(DMT)
Mountain Bluebird - Flock 400 3/19 near Waterton(2 other smaller flocks)(L&RG) 89(19 occurrences) 3/26 Clear Creek, 164(29 occ.) 3/27 W. of Denver(40% f. 60%m.)(J&MD); many 3/27 Palmer L.(RR); several small groups 4/8 treeless plains N of Nunn(J&MD)
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 3/10, 21 NE Denver(TM); 1 4/17 Barr L.*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 3 4/17 Barr L.*
Bohemian Waxwing - 45 3/23-28 Boulder(LC)
Pileolated Warbler - 1m. 4/17 Barr L.*
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1 4/10 Arvada(J&MD); 2m. 4/17 Barr L.*
Red-winged Blackbird - c. 5000 Loveland(unusual concentration)(J&MD)

Brewer's Blackbird - 1.3/12, 30 3/19 Marston L.(L&RG)
Crow-Blackbird(Bronzed Grackle) 5 4/17 City Park,Denver(DMT)
Pine Grosbeak - 2 3/15 Vail Pass(RR)
Pine Siskin - 3 3/15 Golden(J&MD); 3 4/16 Genesee Mtn.(DMT); 2 4/17 Barr L.*
(Still unusually scarce)
White-winged Junco - 1 3/19 N. Turkey Creek: 2 3/20, 24, 1 4/13 Golden(J&MD)

BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO AND WESTERN TEXAS

A vacation trip from Denver to Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, April 2 to 9, 1955, was most interesting as a bird trip. Eighty-five species were listed, although a severe dust storm in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, April 2, and a snow storm, April 8-9, made observation difficult or impossible at times.

Unusual or especially interesting species included a Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew) near Roswell, Boat-tailed Grackles and Black-necked Stilts at El Paso, Road-Runner and Harris's Hawk near Alamogordo, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Scaled Quail and Black-throated (Desert) Sparrow. The White-necked Raven was common from Raton southward, replacing the Magpie, as was the Turkey Vulture; 45 Ravens were seen in one flight near Carlsbad. The Loggerhead Shrike, always single birds, was common throughout the semi-desert of the southern half of the trip; one Shrike and 8 White-necked Ravens were the only birds seen among the dunes at White Sands National Monument. Eleven species of ducks were seen at El Paso or near Carlsbad, but there were no Mallards; Shovellers and American Widgeon were the most abundant ducks.

Migrating Colorado species were many. Robins and Mountain Bluebirds were numerous in the pinon-juniper forest and elsewhere north of central New Mexico; none were seen south of there except one Robin at El Paso. Large flocks of both were noted in or near the Sangre de Cristo Mountains during the snow storm. Western Bluebirds occurred only in the Rio Grande Valley, south of Albuquerque. White-crowned Sparrows were the most frequent migrants; they were found in practically all brushy places from El Paso to Pueblo, Colorado. Chipping Sparrows were numerous in the semi-desert of the Guadalupe Mountains, in Texas. A few Pine Siskins were seen at Carlsbad Caverns and the Guadalupe Mountains. Brewer's Blackbirds in large flocks and two small flocks of Lark Buntings in winter plumage were seen south of Roswell and Alamogordo. Cliff, Bank, Barn, Rough-winged and Violet-green Swallows occurred in small numbers near Carlsbad, also a flock of 50 Water Pipits. The only Warblers were a flock of Audubons with two or three Myrtles, at El Paso, also a Yellowthroat there. Sparrow Hawks were common most of the trip, especially in the Rio Grande Valley in central New Mexico; as many as ten were seen at once and in one stretch of about 75 miles, south of Albuquerque, 60 were counted. Other hawks seen were Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Marsh and Sharp-shinned.

Horned Larks were still in large flocks in the plains north of Raton Pass, but single or in pairs south of there. Many large flocks of Juncos were seen during the snowstorm in the Sangre de Cristos; Gray-headed and Slate-colored were identified, but we could not determine whether there were any of the local breeding species, the Red-backed Junco. No Starlings were noted anywhere south of Pueblo.

----D. M. Thatcher

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Ten people attended the March 26 trip to PIERCE ROAD(SW of Denver), and the BAX RANCH, near Morrison, led by Sadie Morrison. Thirty-nine species were seen, migrating Robins and Mountain Bluebirds being the most numerous. The most unusual

bird was a Brown Thrasher, which apparently had wintered in the vicinity. The only Hawks seen were a Red-tail and two Merlins, a Western and a Richardson's; Golden Eagles and Horned Owls especially looked for at the ranch were not found.

The trip to CLEAR CREEK east of Golden(McIntyre Road), April 2, led by Ruth Wheeler, was attended by 20 people. Cold and wind the latter part of the afternoon interfered with birding, but 26 species, including Marsh Wren(heard) and Great Blue Heron were found.

An all-day trip covering the country between Denver and LONGMONT, April 16, led by John and Margaret Douglass, attended by 12 people, found 52 species. Most unusual species was Red-necked Grebe, of which six were seen on Union Reservoir(about 3 miles east of Longmont). Other migrants, other than 12 species of ducks, included Double-crested Cormorant(20), Great Blue Heron, Snoy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Avocet, Violet-green Swallow, Mountain Bluebird, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Crow-blackbird(Bronzed Grackle).

The BARR LAKE trip, Sunday morning, April 17, was attended by three, John Flavin leading. Migrants seen included an early Pileolated Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Bank Swallow(several), Yellow-headed Blackbird(2), Water Pipit(2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet(3). Shorebirds were almost entirely absent, due tocovering of the mud flats by rising water; one Baird's Sandpiper, several Killdeer and one Snipe were found. Eleven species of ducks, Double-crested Cormorant(11) and Eared Grebe(5) were seen. Hawks were an early Osprey and Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon and Sparrow Hawk,(one of each); also two Horned Owls.

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BYLAW CHANGES

The Directors of the Colorado Bird Club, on March 22, 1955, voted the following changes in the bylaws:

Dues for regular adult Members (18 years of age or older) to be $2.00 per year.

Dues for additional members from one family, $.50 per year, if only one copy of each issue of Colorado Bird Notes is desired for the family.

Dues for Junior Members, under 18 years of age, $.50 per year. Junior Members to receive Colorado Bird Notes.

Voting to be by regular Members only (includes all paid-up members over 18 years of age).

Subscription to Colorado Bird Notes, to non-members, $1.00 per year, post-paid.

These bylaw revisions to take effect in September, 1955.

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Learn to recognize thrushes by their Robin-like movements. Hermit Thrushes have reddish tails. Olive-backed Thrushes are entirely olive-brown above. Veerys (Willow Thrushes) are reddish above.

We have two Chickadees. Mountain Chickadees are usually in the mountains, have a white stripe over the eye and hoarser voices than Black-capped Chickadees.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL - MAY, 1955

April

24 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip - Red Rocks and Genesee Mountain Parks. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet Main Library, Civic Center. Transportation, 50¢.

26 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification Session - John Chapin, leading.
8 PM Regular Meeting. Dr. Gordon Alexander, Head of Biology Dep't. of University of Colorado, will talk on "Hybridization of the Flicker". Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park. (Use north entrance)

30 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Barr Lake. Phyllis Caswell, leader (PE3-7451) Meet Montview and Colorado Blvds. Transp. 75¢.

May

8 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Marston Lake. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200). Meet in block west of Broadway on Alameda Ave. Transp. 50¢.

14 (Sat.) 7 AM Joint field trip with Colorado Mountain Club - Plum Creek. Jim Humphrey, leader (GR7-3800). Meet Main Library, Civic Center. Transp. 50¢. Bird Club members will not pay Mountain Club "Trail Fee".

21 (Sat.) SPRING COUNT, to be arranged by John Chapin. (See page 5.)

24 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting. Election of officers. Denver Museum of Natural History

Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings and field trips.
Transportation is by private cars. Charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 9 May 1955

SPRING BIRDS ON THE EXPERIMENTAL RANGE

by John and Margaret Douglass

On April 30 we made a trip from Greeley to the United States Department of Agriculture Experimental Range, seven miles north of Nunn, in search of Mountain Plovers. The Range is located in the midst of flat, short-grass prairie, and although the cover varies a little from pasture to pasture according to the grazing treatment each plot has been given, the area bears only low grasses, cactus, and a few scrawny clumps of saltbrush. It was seven-thirty when we arrived, and the morning sky was cloudless, but hazy. The air was warm and the breeze gentle. The first bird we spotted was a McCown's Longspur. We'd expected him - for when we were here April 8 we had found Longspurs, Horned Larks, Meadowlarks, a stray Mountain Bluebird, and a couple of hawks. But today we were in for a surprise. Next we found a Rock Wren; later we saw six more in the various pastures. We saw Say's Phoebes, a Green-tailed Towhee, Lark Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, a Sage Thrasher, Mourning Doves and a Killdeer. Of these species only the Mourning Dove and Killdeer were found by Cassel* during his breeding bird census on the Range in 1948, and these two came into his plots only as visitors. The others must have been merely stopping on their way to other destinations. At the Range Headquarters we found more travelers - a Gray-headed Junco, two Pink-sided Oregon Juncos, and a White-crowned Sparrow. There were also English Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings. Near the headquarters we heard a rattling trill among the bushes. "Chipping Sparrow", we exclaimed. Then came another song - and no Chipping Sparrow of our acquaintance had ever put such flourishes in his performance. We crawled over the fence to investigate. After some searching we did indeed find a single chippy, but with him were several Brewer's Sparrows - singing gayly. We will vouch for the accuracy of Peterson's description of their song; it "sounds like a Chipping Sparrow trying to sing like a canary." The effect is pleasant, but quite bewildering to anyone unfamiliar with this species. The Chipping Sparrow was obviously a migrant headed for the mountains, but the Brewer's Sparrows were probably on home ground. Cassel found twenty pairs per hundred acres on the bushy part of the Range during his breeding census.

On a small pond, where the snow drifts deep and then melts, we saw a pair of Pintails and one of Mallards. We also saw two Buteos, one of them a Ferruginous Hawk. And we saw Mountain Plovers - three of them. One was flying close to the ground, somewhat like a small falson. The other two were standing close together by the side of the road. We watched them for some time, and from their actions surmised they were a nesting pair. The Range is a known nesting area for the species. Although they nest here, we found no Lark Buntings. But with this one exception, we saw the birds most characteristic of the area and some interesting and surprising migrants as well.

* Cassel, J. F. 1952. Breeding bird populations at various altitudes in North Central Colorado. Ph.D. Thesis, University of Colorado.

WELDONA NOTES

By Howard Rollin

May 2, 1955 - The unusual feature of the spring here is the continued severe drouth and the extremely bad sand storms and high winds. The only amount of moisture during all of April was less than one tenth of an inch. The effect on bird life is shown by the paucity of migrants and the amazing silence of the usually exuberant Horned Larks and Meadowlarks. Both are heard singing but the singing is very subdued and usually early in the mornings, while both are as common as previous years and are well distributed about the prairies and canyons in their usual habitats. So far not one Horned Lark has been seen to give the usual flight song. The same amount of time (or more) has beenspent outside and I have watched carefully for their song of the air. Hawks are very scarce at this time also; the Golden Eagle is still about and can be seen almost any day. Magpies also are about, but they are very quiet. The Great Horned Owls have their young in the canyons; so far the Barn Owl has not been seen. The male Pheasant is still here and there is now one hen also. Ducks are absent except for a couple of Mallards along the creek.

Following is a list of first or last dates and other migration data:

Mallard - 2 along creek 4/30, 1 passed house 5/1
Swainson's Hawk - first(2) 4/28, 1 5/1; scarce
Rough-legged Hawk - last 4/8
Merlin(Pigeon Hawk) - 4/5
Killdeer - 4/7, common by 4/21
Wilson's Snipe - 1 along creek 4/21(rare)
Long-billed Curlew - 1 passed 4/21(rare).
Mourning Dove - 2 4/14(average first date), 2 4/18, very common by 4/21 and to the present
Red-shafted Flicker - 1 4/14, 2 4/28
Western Kingbird - 1 4/29
Say's Phoebe - first 4/10, 1 4/11, common by 4/15; are unusually common this spring, 5 or more in flock and are about wherever one goes.
Rough-winged Swallow - first 4/24, 1 4/29, remains rare.
Rock Wren - first(1) 4/15, 1 4/16, common 4/21
Sage Thrasher - first(1) 4/28
American Robin - 4/9, 5 4/11, 1 4/12, 3 4/14, 1 5/1
Mountain Bluebird - 4 4/5, 2 4/13, last 4/21
Gray Shrike - still here 4/7
Loggerhead Shrike - 2 4/25, 26; common to present
House Sparrow - increasing(20-25 present) 4/25
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 4M, 2F 4/19 & 30; common 5/1,2 and feeding with Redwings, Cowbirds, Crow-blackbirds and Brewer's Blackbirds.
Brewer's Blackbird - first 4/25, 5 4/26, now common
Crow-blackbird - 1 4/11, 5 4/19; still here in small numbers
Brown-headed Cowbird - first 4/8, 4/15, more and first female 4/16; now common
Lark Bunting - first(1M) 4/28, 1 5/1
Vesper Sparrow - first(2) 4/13, 2 4/16,22; still very uncommon
Lark Sparrow - first(1) 4/30, 1 5/1
White-winged Junco - 1 4/13
Slate-colored Junco - 1 4/4,8; last 4/17(a rare species)
Montana Oregon Junco - 1 4/13,15(last)
Shufeldt's Oregon Junco - last 4/13
Gray-headed Junco - 1 4/21, 5/1(rare)
American Tree Sparrow - last 4/13
Chipping Sparrow - 5 along creek 4/13,17

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow - first 4/10; few about every day, most 6-8 5/1
Song Sparrow - 1 4/25(rare)
McCown's Longspur - 75-100 passed 4/13; last noted 4/28

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to RED ROCKS PARK, Sunday, April 24, was attended by two, David Juergens and Donald Thatcher. The 27 species seen included the following migrants: White-throated Swift(20); Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the last Shufeldt's Oregon Junco and Gray-headed Junco reported for the Denver area, also the first Yellow-headed Blackbird(at Federal Center).

Five persons attended the trip to BARR LAKE and vicinity on Saturday, April 30, led by Phyllis Caswell. Thirty-four species were found, mostly ducks and shorebirds. The highlights of the day were four White-faced Ibis, one Snowy Egret and numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds(75),Wilson's Phalaropes(10) and Avocets(15).

The three who made the trip to MARSTON LAKE and BEAR CREEK east of Morrison, led by John Chapin, found 56 species, including seven shorebirds and eleven ducks. Most unusual species seen were one each of Common Loon, White-faced Ibis and California Gull at the lake and a Mockingbird near Bear Creek.

The joint trip with the Colorado Mountain Club, May 14, to PLUM CREEK, near Sedalia, led by Sadie Morrison, was attended by 15 people, about evenly divided between the two clubs. Thirty-five species were found,reflecting this year's slow migration of small birds. Of unusual interest were a Cooper's Hawk, chased by a Sparrow Hawk, and a pair of Western Bluebirds apparently nesting in a large cottonwood tree.

The following has been received from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

HELP US BAND MOURNING DOVES!

The most pressing need for improving Mourning Dove management is better information on the movement of doves from breeding areas of known population density to the various concentration points during migration and the winter months. Recoveries from doves banded as nestlings and breeding adults are needed to provide information on the source of origin of birds killed in each hunting area or state. To obtain the desired recoveries, it is necessary to secure assistance in banding a considerable number of nestlings and breeding adults throughout the range of the Mourning Dove. An analysis of recoveries from all previous dove banding provides only about 1,000 usable recoveries from nestling banding.

The recovery rate from nestling banding unfortunately is very low, usually only one to two per cent. However, several nestling banding projects have produced higher rates of recovery; consequently we hope more recoveries may result from intensified nestling banding projects. We need between 50,000 and 100,000 nestlings banded during the next five years. Adults banded from mid-May to mid-July can be considered breeding adults at the location of banding.

The recovery rate from adults may be slightly higher than that from nestlings; however, the difficulties of banding adults during the desired period may limit the number which can be banded. They must be trapped on the nest or baited to nearby traps. This requires very frequent visits to traps since adults cannot be away from eggs or young in the nest more than a very short time. On the other hand, banding of nestling doves is a specialized job, requiring diligent search for dove nests in various habi-

tats. If eggs are found in the nest, a subsequent visit must be made to band the young. Usually we recommend the nestlings should be banded from approximately six to ten days of age. However, by utilizing a technique developed by Charles Kossack of Barrington, Illinois, and described in Bird-Banding(23:28-29, January 1952), vary young nestlings can be safely banded. It is necessary to use a short piece of elastic adhesive tape, ½ to 1 inch wide, wrapped around the band and secured to the upper part of the leg, mainly on the small downy feathers. This prevents the band from slipping up above the joint of the leg or off the toes. The adhesive tape will gradually come loose and fall off in one to three weeks.

Dove nests are most commonly found from four to fifteen feet high in both coniferous and deciduous trees. In the early part of the nesting season, doves prefer evergreen trees almost exclusively. Cemeteries, parks, estates, hedge rows, farm-steads and small towns are good places to visit in searching for dove nests.

Banding should be so distributed and in such numbers that it will sample adequately the annual production and the breeding population to be evaluated. Nestlings should be banded throughout the entire nesting season in order to sample the production of all broods. The dove nests from March to September. Usually two or three broods are successful from four to six nesting attempts.

A very interesting and productive project can be undertaken by Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, FFA or school classes by urging the girls and boys to search for dove nests during the week days. On Saturdays the sponsor should visit the nests with the youngsters and band the nestling doves. If eggs are present, the nest can be revisited the following Saturday for banding. During the last five years, the state of Texas conducted a very successful banding project by utilizing school children and having local game protectors supervise and conduct the banding. Local bird clubs might well consider this type of project. This Service urges students, biologists, game protectors, sportsmen and others to participate in a nation-wide effort to band large numbers of nestling doves and breeding adults during the next five breeding seasons.

A banding permit must first be secured from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., and the necessary Size 3-A bands will be furnished by this agency. Some states also require a state banding permit. If you are able to participate, please write me of your plans and at the close of the nesting season send a summary of your accomplishments. You will contribute much needed information to an important investigation of this migratory game-bird and we believe you will enjoy the experience.

Harold S. Peters, Research Biologist
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Peachtree-Seventh Building
Atlanta 5, Georgia

Anyone interested in this project should notify the undersigned(D.M.T.) immediately and blanket application for banding permits will be made. As the Mourning Dove breeding season is already under way, we may not accomplish as much as desired this year, but we can be prepared to do better during the next four years. Mr. Peters will be at the Fish and Wildlife Service laboratory, at the Federal Center, June 15 to discuss the work.

--Donald M. Thatcher

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

By Donald M. Thatcher

The late spring, compared with those of the past two years has slowed migration considerably. Of 64 species for which comparable first dates are available, 43 averaged 10 days later than last year, three were first seen on the same date, and 18 averaged 8 days earlier, the average for all being about five days late. Had there been as many observers reporting early arrivals last spring as there are this year, undoubtedly the difference would be greater. Whereas the 1954 spring count was low because it was held nearly a week after the migration peak(about May 15) several species had not yet arrived by that date in 1955.

Following are dates of arrivals, departures or early nesting and some unusual occurrences. Inparentheses following several dates are comparable dates for 1954, in most cases from the same general locality as the current dates. (*Asterisk indicates scheduled field trip by Club.)

Common Loon - 1 5/8 Marston L.*
Eared Grebe - 5 4/17 Barr Lake*(4/10/54)
Western Grebe - 10 4/24 Standley L.(J&M Douglass); 1 4/25 Colorado Springs(Larry Field) 1 Berkeley Lake 4/27(D.Thatcher); 5/1(L&R Galloway)
White Pelican - 26 flying high 4/18 Berthoud(J.Arnold); 40 5/14 Bonny Reservoir(J&MD)
Double-crested Cormorant - 1 4/8 Colo. Spgs.(L.F.); 4 4/9 Denver(DT);(4/10/54)
Snowy Egret - 1 4/23 C.S.(LF); 2 4/26 Berthoud(JA); 3 5/8 near Marston L.(DT)
Black-crowned Night Heron - 3 4/24 C.S.(LF); 1 4/24 Clear Creek(CC) east of Golden (DT) (4/10/54)
American Bittern - 1 4/18 CC(J&MD)(pair resident since) (4/26/54)
White-faced Ibis - 4 4/30 Barr L.*; 1 5/1 Marston L.*
Glossy Ibis(Eastern) - 1 4/22 Boulder(No white apparent on face. Observed with telescope by Al. Knorr and Larry Crowley)
Gadwall - 1 4/2 CC*; common about Denver since; most abundant duck at Marston L.5/8*
Blue-winged Teal - 6 4/30 north of Loveland(J&MD)
Cinnamon Teal - 2 4/29 Greeley, 1 4/30 Loveland(J&MD); several 5/8 near Federal Correction Institution(Littleton)*
Cinnamon-Blue-winged Teal hybrid - 1 4/2 Berthoud(body of Cinnamon, markings of the Blue-winged)(JA)
Shoveller - last records 5/8, 4 Sloan's L.(DT), 25 Marston L. Peak about 4/1
Redhead - last, 8 5/13 near Wheatridge(DT). Peak, 4/20
Ring-necked Duck - Common March-April, Berkeley L. etc.; last 2 5/1(DT). Peak 3/26
Canvasback - last, few 5/8 Marston L.*
Greater Scaup - 1 4/25 Colo. Spgs.(LF)
Lesser Scaup - common 3/9 to 5/8 Denver. Peak about 4/20
American Goldeneye - Common all winter; last 1 5/6 Berkeley L.(J&MD)
Barrow's Goldeneye - 3 4/11 Colo. Spgs.(Broadmoor L.)(LF)
Bufflehead - 1F 4/12 Berkeley L.(DT)(3/14/54); 3 4/16 Boulder(LC); pair 4/17 Barr L.*
Turkey Vulture - 1 4/13 Colo. Spgs.(LF) (4/10/54)
Cooper's Hawk - 1 5/13 CC(DT); 1 5/14 Sedalia*
Swainson's Hawk - nesting, Bonny Res. 5/14(J&MD)
Rough-legged Hawk - 1 4/29 near Greeley(J&MD);(See Weldona Notes)
Sandhill Crane - 13 4/1 Logan County(L.Jack Lyon)(3/27/54)
Sora - 1 5/4 CC(J&MD)
Black-bellied Plover - 2 5/? Berthoud(JA)
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 4/15 Colo.Spgs.(LF); 1 4/18 CC(J&MD);(5/8/54)
Willett - 1 4/30 near Loveland(J&MD); 1 5/13 Sloan's L.(DT)
Greater Yellowlegs - 6 4/24 Standley L.(J&MD); 1 4/22 Boulder(LC)
Lesser Yellowlegs - 1 4/10 Colo. Spgs.(LF); 3 4/20 Mud L.(NW of Denver)(DT)(5/1/54)
Baird's Sandpiper - 4/17 to 5/16; peak about 5/1
Least Sandpiper - 9 5/16 Sloan's L.(DT)

Dowitcher - 2 4/30 near Loveland(J&MD); 10 5/8 Marston L.*
Avocet - 40 4/8 Colo. Spgs.(LF); 3 4/16 Boulder(LC) (3/27/54)
BLACK*NECKED STILT - 3 5/4 Sloan's L.(DT)
Wilson's Phalarope - 36 4/30 Greeley-Loveland, 97 5/1 near Arvada(J&MD); 4 to 12 at Sloan's L. 5/4-13(DT); (5/1/54)
CALIFORNIA GULL - 1 5/8 Marston L.*
Forster's Tern - 2 5/1 Rocky Mtn. L.,Denver(L&RG) (5/3/54)
Barn Owl - nest, 5 eggs 5/14 Bonny Res.(J&MD)
Mourning Dove - incubating,Denver 5/12(DT)
White-throated Swift - 3 4/20 Red Rocks Park(L&RG)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 1 5/13 CC(DT) (5/8/54)
Flicker hybrid - 5/14 killed by car, Downing & 5th, Denver.(Yellow shafts, face markings of Red-shafted)(DT)
Red-headed Woodpecker - first 5/6 Phillips Co.(LJL)
Lewis's Woodpecker - 3 migrating 5/12 Lakewood(DT)
Red-naped Common Sapsucker - 1 4/4 Colo. Spgs.(LF)
Western Kingbird - first, Washington Co. 5/3(LJL); first 4 5/7 Denver(L&RG)(5/8/54) (See Weldona)
Say's Phoebe - 1 4/20, building nest in garage 5/1, 4 eggs 5/16 Golden(J&MD)(4/24/54)
Empidonax(Western?) Flycatcher - 1 5/1 CC(DT) (5/2/54)
Western Wood Pewee - 1 NW Denver(M.Pritchett)(5/18/54)
Violet-green Swallow - several 5/8 Marston L.*(5/1/54)
Tree Swallow - several 5/8 Marston L.* (4/15/54)
Rough-winged Swallow - first 4/27 Berkeley L.(DT)(See Weldona)
Cliff Swallow - 1 5/14 Bonny Res., 30 5/15 Golden(J&MD) (5/1/54)
Blue Jay - first 5/5 Logan Co.(LJL)
Mountain Chickadee - last at Denver 4/9(DT, T. Marsh)
House Wren - first 1 4/24 CC (DT) (4/27/54)
Marsh Wren - last 1 5/1 CC(DT)
Rock Wren - first 4/24 Red Rocks*(See Weldona) (4/4/54)
Mockingbird - first 4/19 Logan Co.(LJL); 1 4/30 & 5/1 NW Denver(MP); 5/7 Berthoud(JA); 5/8 Denver (L&RG) and Morrison* (5/8/54)
Brown Thrasher - first 4/29 Washington Co.(LJL)
Sage Thrasher - first 2 4/22 Boulder(LC) (4/24/54)
Am. Robin - eggs in nest 5/1 NW Denver(DT)
Eastern Am. Robin - 1 4/6 Colo. Spgs.(LF)
Hermit Thrush - first 1 4/24 CC(J&MD) (5/2/54)
Olive-backed Thrush - first 1 5/7 CC(B.Moore, DT) (5/15/54)
Mountain Bluebird - 2/28 Logan Co.(LJL); last in Denver 4/23(J&MD)
Townsend's Solitaire - last, Denver, 5/1 (DT)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1 5/1 CC(J&MD)
Water Pipit - 2 5/8 Sloan's L.(DT)
Cedar Waxwing - 4 5/15 CC(J&MD)
Loggerhead Shrike - 4/8 Phillips Co.(LJL) (4/17/54)
Solitary Vireo - 1 5/14 Sedalia*
Warbling Vireo - 2 5/14 Sedalia*(5/16/54)
Orange-crowned Warbler - first 1 4/24 CC(J&MD, DT) (5/2/52)
Virginia's Warbler - first 1 5/1 Red Rocks (DT) (5/2/54)
Yellow Warbler - first 1 4/30 SE Denver(F. Kleinschnitz); 5/4 NW Denver(M.Crow) (5/5/54)
Myrtle Warbler - 7 4/23 Boulder(LC);(4/15/54); few 4/24 to 5/13 CC(DT); 2 4/30 Georgetown(DT)
Audubon's Warbler - 4 4/23 Boulder(LC); several 4/24-5/7 CC(J&MD,DT); 2 4/28 Berthoud(JA); (4/14/54)
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER - 1M 5/13 CC(Ray Olson,DT)
Townsend's Warbler - 1 4/28 Berthoud(JA)
Ovenbird - 1 5/11 NW Denver(MC) (5/6/54)
Macgillivray's Warbler - 1 4.24 CC(J&MD) (5/16 54)

Common Yellowthroat - 1 4/24 CC(DT); 3 5/1 CC(J&MD)(5/4/54)
Yellow-breasted Chat - 1 5/14 Bonny Res, 1 5/15 CC(J&MD)(5/8/54)
Pileolated Warbler - (see April; 1 4/25, 3 5/3 CC(J&MD)(5/2/54)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 2 4/16 Boulder(LC); first 4/24, first F.5/2, eggs in nest 5/16 Federal Center(DT); Karl Menzel(USF&WS) reports 5/19 at least 50 nests at Fed. Ctr. pond, mostly with eggs. Many nests flooded by rising water after rain of 5/18-19; (4/4/54,first in flocks 4/18/54)
Orchard Oriole - 7 5/14 Bonny Res.(J&MD)
Bullock's Oriole - 1 5/10 Lakewood(Olney Smith); 3 5/15 Golden & vicinity(J&MD)(5/7/54)
Brewer's Blackbird - first 4/17 City Park, Denver(DT) (4/4/54)
Crow Blackbird(Bronzed Grackle) - first 4/8 Phillips Co.(LJL);4/11 Weldona(H.Rollin); 4/17 City Pk.,Denver(DT); on nest 4/30 Greeley (J&MD); (4/4/54)
Brown-headed Cowbird - (See Weldona); 5(M&F) 5/1 CC(DT)(5/9/54)
Western Tanager - first(female) 5/14 Sedalia*; 6M 5/15 CC(J&MD); (5/8/54)
Black-headed Grosbeak - first, 1 5/8 SE Denver(L&RG) (5/14/54)
Lazuli Bunting - first, 1M 5/3 CC(J&MD); (4/25/54)
Evening Grosbeak - 6 4/26, 28 Cheesman Park(TM); 30 5/15 Wash. Pk.(B.Durfee); 5 5/16 Boulder(J&MD)(uncommon this spring)
Cassin's Finch - 1 5/16 Boulder, has been numerous on Colo. Univ. campus past week (J&MD)
Pine Siskin - 4/23 to 5/16, few in Denver daily(DT); about 300 5/13 Golden(J&MD)
Green-tailed Towhee - 3 5/1 CC(DT); (5/2/54)
Lark Bunting - (See Weldona); first 5/3 Wash. Co.(LJL)
Savannah Sparrow - 2 5/16 Sloan's L. Park(DT) (4/10/54)
Vesper Sparrow - first 4/13 Weldona(HR) and Wash. Co.(LJL);first 1 4/25 Denver(TM)
Lark Sparrow - first: 4/30 Weldona(HR); 5/5 Wash.Co.(LJL)(4/29/54)
SAGE SPARROW - 1 4/21 Cheesman Park, Denver(TM)
White-winged Junco - last 4/8 SE Denver(TM); 4/13 Weldona(HR)
Slate-colored Junco - last 4/15 SE Denver(TM)
Oregon Junco - last migrants
  Shufeldt's - 1 4/24 Red Rocks*
  Montana - 4/19 Denver(TM)
  Pink-sided - 1 5/1 CC(DT) (5/16/54)
Gray-headed Junco - last 4/25 Denver(TM); 10 4/29 Colo.Spgs.(LF) (5/8/54)
American Tree Sparrow - last 4/24 Golden(J&MD); 20 4/30 Boulder(LC)
Chipping Sparrow - first 4/25 Denver(TM)(4/25/54); (See Weldona)
Clay-colored Sparrow - 6 5/6 Barr L.,very numerous 5/14 Bonny Res.(J&MD)
Brewer's Sparrow - 1 5/1,7 CC(DT) (5/1/54)
White-crowned Sparrow - first 4/26 Logan Co.(LJL); last 1 5/10 Golden(J&MD)(5/16/54) 3 5/14 Bonny Res.(J&MD)
White-throated Sparrow - 1 5/6 CC(J&MD)
Lincoln Sparrow - 1 5/1 CC(DT)
McCown's Longspur - last 4/14 Wash. Co.(LJL)

The Dowitcher reported in February(Jan.4) has been retracted by the observer, after seeing a number of that species in spring migration. The bird doubtless was a Common(Wilson's) Snipe.

CALENDAR FOR MAY - JUNE - JULY, 1955

May
21 (Sat.) Spring Count. (See page 5, April CBN)
24 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification Session - John Chapin, leading
8 PM Regular Meeting. Election of officers for 1955-1956.
Mr. Johnson Neff of U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service will talk on "Albatrosses, Airplanes and Midway", with slides.
Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park. (North entrance)

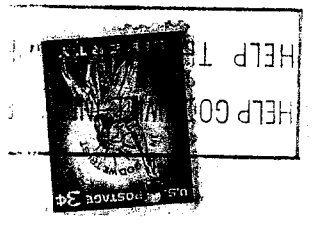
June
5 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field trip - St. Mary's Glacier. John Flavin, leader (PL5-1744) Meet at Library, Civic Center. Transportation, 75¢
11 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Waterton. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924). Meet on Alameda in block west of Broadway. Transp. 50¢
19 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field trip to Weldona and Fort Morgan. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). To meet Howard Rollin and Edward Hellstern. Meet at Library, Civic Center. Transp. $1.50 Bring lunch
25 (Sat.) 7 AM Field trip to East Portal. Jim Humphrey, leader (GR7-3800) Meet at Colfax and Sheridan. Transp. $1.00. Bring raincoat, jacket, lunch.

July
9 (Sat.) 6:30 AM Field trip to Mt. Audubon. Buryl Cummins, leader (GE3-3787) Meet at Civic Center. Transp $1.00. Bring raincoat, jacket, lunch.
17 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field trip to Summit Lake. Clark Fortner, leader (PL5-1273) Meet at Civic Center. Transp. $1.00. Bring raincoat, jacket, lunch.
23 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip to Brook Forest. Sadie Morrison, leader (MA3-0840) Meet at Colfax & Sheridan. Transp. 75¢. Bring supper.
31 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field trip to Genesee Mountain Park. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) Meet at Civic Center. Transp 50¢

Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings and field trips.
Transportation is by private cars. Charge is the suggested amount for those riding with others.

Mrs. Ruth Wells
3340 W. 37th Ave.
Denver 11
Colo.

Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.



COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 10 June - July - August 1955

THE 1955 STATE-WIDE SPRING COUNT

by John L. Chapin

This year the Spring Count, made on May 21, was expanded to includecounts from widely separated points throughout the State of Colorado. The several reports gave the surprising total of 190 species, in spite of a year of drought. None of the counts was extraordinarily high and honors were taken by John Flavin and Larry Crowley, with 105 species.

The broad ornithological scope of Colorado was illustrated by some of the records of this count. Such eastern species as Chimney Swift, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Cardinal, and Blue Jays were found along the eastern border while the far western portion of the State produced Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Plain Titmouse, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Unusual records included the Piping Plover, seen by John Flavin and Larry Crowley at Marston Lake. The Chimney Swift, although not unprecedented, is unusual. (The author has speculated that some Chimney Swift records may actually be of Vaux's Swifts. The latter is known to winter at Baton Rouge, La., and to summer in the Pacific northwest and might get from one place to the other by crossing Colorado. It is not supposed to be safely separable in the field from the Chimney Swift). Three Crested Flycatchers were observed at Bonny Reservoir where one was seen last year (One taken in Weld County in 1911 is probably the only previous Colorado record). A Pewee at Bonny refused to call and may possibly have been of the Eastern species. Three most unusual seasonal reports came from the Colorado Springs area: Rough-legged Hawk, Tree Sparrow, and Oregon Junco. One would normally expect the first two to be in the Arctic by late May. Two excellent counts were made on Sunday, May 22, the day following the State-wide count, which would have added twelve species to the total, had they been made on Saturday. One, by A. Sydney Hyde, at Gunnison,included American Merganser, Blue(Dusky) Grouse, Traill's(Little) Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sage Thrasher, and Northern(Grinnell's) Waterthrush. The other, by John and Margaret Douglass, along the lower South PlatteRiver, where they counted also on Saturday, encountered the only warbler wave for the State,with Brewster's (the dominant hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers), Prothonotary, Nashville and BlackburnianWarblers; also found were and Eastern Phoebe and a Hudsonian Godwit, the last perhaps the best find of the weekend.

The Cheyenne Audubon Society conducted its first Spring count on Sunday, May 22 and recorded 73 species including Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Baird's Sparrow. Another trip, on May 21, the preceding day, yielded Townsend's Warbler.

The author wishes to thank all whose splendid cooperation in submitting reports contributed to the success of the 1955 Spring Count and hopes they will all be able to participate in future counts.

List Of Localities and Observers

Column

1 - Lower Platte River, Sterling, Julesburg, etc. - John and Margaret Douglass
2 - Bonny Dam, Burlington, & road to Denver - Alice Marsh, Thompson G. Marsh and John Chapin
3 - Ranch northeast of Weldona - Howard Rollin
4 - Lamar Area - Dominick and Emma Jane D'Ostilio
5 - Barr Lake and certain areas adjacent to Denver - Phyllis Caswell, Bess Phelan, Alma Kirkeby, and Sadie Morrison
6 - Longmont - Mrs. Carl Collister
7 - Denver Parks and residential - Bertha Durfee and Ruth Wheeler
8 - Certain areas southwest of Denver - Ted and Ruth Dement
9 - Waterton - Leo and Ruth Galloway
10 - Colorado Springs and outskirts - Mrs. Herman Wagner, Mrs. M. M. Thurlow, Mrs. Newton Miller and Jean Miller, Mrs. Lavinia Curtis, Miss Margaret Bourne, Mrs. Aven Nelson
11 - Colorado Springs outskirts - Mrs. Theodore Adams and Mrs. Gilbert Catlett
12 - Colorado Springs vicinity - Larry Field, Mrs. L. B. Field, George Suiton, and Kent Nelson
13 - Estes Park - Edward Hellstern
14 - Echo Lake to Red Rocks Park - Donald Thatcher, Phyllis McRae, James Jetensky, Olney Smith
15 - St. Mary's Glacier to Marston Lake - John Flavin and Larry Crowley
16 - Durango vicinity - Oppie Reames
17 - Paonia - Homer Griffin

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Common Loon															x		
Eared Grebe	1				4										x		
Western Grebe	11														x		
Pied-billed Grebe	2														x		
White Pelican		47						3									
Double-crested Cormorant	6	8				5		14							x		
Great Blue Heron	4	4			4	16		1				1			x		1
Snowy Egret	1	1			15												
Black-crowned Night Heron	6				1	1											
American Bittern		1															
Canada Goose								1				1			x		
Mallard	5	15	1	1	x	24		18	9	14	9	2			x		4
Gadwall	2	7			6	32		6				2			x		
Am. Widgeon		6			2	2		2									
Pintail		3			3	3											
Green-winged Teal	3	4			4							1			x		
Blue-winged Teal	14	19			x	10		6			2	2			x		
Cinnamon Teal					4	6						2			x		
Shoveller	27	14		8	x	32						20					
Redhead	5	5			x						2				x		
Canvasback	5	5													x		
Lesser Scaup	2				x						2	10			x		
Ruddy Duck	8	13				4									x		
Turkey Vulture																2	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1										1					
Cooper's Hawk												1		1			
Red-tailed Hawk		2							1	1		1				1	1
Swainson's Hawk	6	3	1	1								2			x		
Rough-legged Hawk												1					
Ferruginous Hawk				1							1	2			x		
Golden Eagle			1			1			1					1			
Marsh Hawk	2	3						1									

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Osprey	1	1							1								
Prairie Falcon															x		
Sparrow Hawk		3		6	x	5		5	2	1	1	7		2	x	1	1
Bobwhite	2	3															
Scaled Quail				2													
Gambell's Quail																	8
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	25	1	3	5	4		12	5	1		1			x		1
Virginia Rail					1										x		
Sora					1												
Coot	54	28		1	2			2			1	4		1			
Piping Plover															x		
Killdeer	24	8	2	12	x	10		10	5	14	2	5			x	1	2
Black-bellied Plover					1												
Common Snipe						1											
Upland Sandpiper	2																
Spotted Sandpiper	10	1		2					4		2	1		1	x		6
Lesser Yellowlegs						1											
Western Sandpiper												3					
Marbled Godwit						1											
Sanderling															x		
Avocet	1			2		83		8				10			x		
Wilson's Phalarope	1					87		4				30					
California Gull															x		
Ring-billed Gull	3	7				6						3			x		
Franklin's Gull	20	13															
Forster's Tern															x		
Black Tern	30	24													x		
Band-tailed Pigeon															x		
Mourning Dove	107	80	30	67	x	111	26	45	49	49	26	85		7	x	6	14
Barn Owl		1															
Horned Owl	1	1										1			x		
Burrowing Owl			4		2										x		
Poorwill							1								x		
Nighthawk	12			1													
Chimney Swift	1																
White-throated Swift									1	50		10		1	x		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		1			x		1	3		3	2	1		32	x	3	6
Belted Kingfisher	3	3				2		2	2							1	
Yellow-shafted Flicker		1															
Red-shafted Flicker	1	8		3	x	10	7	11	9	18	5	10		5	x	3	3
Red-headed Woodpecker	15	16	3	6	1	2	1					3					
Lewis's Woodpecker						5				6		2				3	
Common Sapsucker															x	3	
Williamson's Sapsucker														1			
Hairy Woodpecker	3											1			x	1	
Downy Woodpecker	1	2						1	2	1	2	2		1	x	1	
Three-toed Woodpecker														1			
Eastern Kingbird	30	60		2	4	3		1	4	1		2			x		
Western Kingbird	12	80	1	110	4	6			6	2		9			x		11
Cassin's Kingbird										2							
Crested Flycatcher		3															
Ash-throated Flycatcher																	5
Say's Phoebe			1							2		1		2	x		1
Least Flycatcher		1															
Western Flycatcher												2		1		1	
Western Pewee		1							1								
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1								1		1					
Horned Lark	24	48	100	80	8	4		1		36		150			x		
Purple Martin																	6

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Violet-green Swallow						40		9		2	23	12		40	x	10	
Tree Swallow						10									x		
Bank Swallow								4									
Rough-winged Swallow	10	8				2						14			x	1	4
Barn Swallow	9	15		14	x	17	2	14	3			3		2	x		7
Cliff Swallow						134			30	50		10		6	x		
Gray Jay														1	x		
Blue Jay	19	40															
Steller's Jay						2						3	4	1	x		
Scrub Jay								1		1		1					2
Magpie	9	12	1	40	x	48		31	29	19	5	70		12	x	5	4
Common Raven														1	x		
American Crow	5	5				3		1	1		3	1		3	x	1	
Pinyon Jay																15	7
Clark's Nutcracker														1	x		
Black-capped Chickadee	11	4		1		2		2	3	1	1	1		4	x		1
Mountain Chickadee										10		1	2	9	x	1	
Plain Titmouse																	1
White-breasted Nuthatch							1					3		1			
Pygmy Nuthatch										7		2	4	4	x	1	
Brown Creeper														2			
House Wren	38	16			1	1	1	3	6			2		1	x	1	4
Canyon Wren								1						4	x		
Rock Wren		1	12												x		
Mockingbird	1	4	2	18						1							
Catbird	1	8								6	4			3		3	2
Brown Thrasher	11	12		2													
American Robin	15	2		6	x	25	30	29	13	28	16	6		11	x	5	19
Wood Thrush	1																
Hermit Thrush	1				1							1			x		1
Olive-backed Thrush	6	15				4		2	1	3	1	2			x		
Veery	1																
Eastern Bluebird											1	1					
Western Bluebird											2	11		2			
Mountain Bluebird								9	2	6	3	18		5	x		3
Townsend's Solitaire														4	x		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher																	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet										3							
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							1							16	x		
Water Pipit														1	x		
Loggerhead Shrike				1				1		1					x		
Common Starling	5	5		15	x	25	4	19	33	2	8	90		4	x	6	
Bell's Vireo	1																
Solitary Vireo	1							4	1		2			3	x		
Red-eyed Vireo	1								1		2						
Warbling Vireo	1	2			x						1			1		2	
Orange-crowned Warbler																	1
Virginia's Warbler											4			1	x	1	
Yellow Warbler	11	32		2	4	4	11	20	13	19	6	2		2	x	5	12
Audubon's Warbler	1				1	1		2	1		3	2		31	x	9	2
Black-throated Gray Warbler																	32
Macgillivray's Warbler								1						1			
Common Yellowthroat	9	16			x	4		29	4	5	2	10			x		
Yellow-breasted Chat	2				1				1					8	x		8
Pileolated Warbler						1										1	
American Redstart	1	5										1					
House Sparrow	x	10	10	x	x	50	3	20		85	30	200			x	15	17
Bobolink	10																
Western Meadowlark	53	48	50	47	x	21	1	55	34	68	15	55		7	x	1	9
Yellow-headed Blackbird	40	100			x	52		52	38			1			x		

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Red-winged Blackbird	86	30		65	x	185	3	90	63	43	20	15			x	3	72
Orchard Oriole	11	10															
Baltimore Oriole	6	8															
Bullock's Oriole		4		48	2	7		1	1	3	4	6		1	x	4	7
Brewer's Blackbird	9	3			x	15	14	23	34	10	6	5		8	x	8	18
Crow Blackbird		3		11	x	15		12	1	22	10	2			x		
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	8	25	1	3										x		
Western Tanager		1					1				6	6	6	1	x	14	2
Cardinal	1																
Black-headed Grosbeak	1				1					31	11	1	1	3	x	10	8
Blue Grosbeak	1	6	1	3													
Lazuli Bunting	1				x	12		1	2	2	11			15	x		1
Evening Grosbeak						2	7	2		14		2					47
Cassin's Finch						1							10		x	2	
House Finch		2		3	x	25	65	6	2	114	30	60		4	x		46
Pine Grosbeak														1	x		
Brown-capped Rosy Finch															x		
Pine Siskin						20			20	40	51	14	12	12	x	30	52
American Goldfinch	3	2		1	x	9		1	1	26		4		3	x	1	5
Lesser Goldfinch												2				2	
Green-tailed Towhee															x		1
Spotted Towhee	1					2		9	3	22	19	2		26	x		2
Brown(Canyon) Towhee											1						
Lark Bunting	127	64	20	3000				3				37		2			
Savannah Sparrow									1								
Grasshopper Sparrow	2																
Vesper Sparrow	2	1						3				1			x		3
Lark Sparrow	18	12		400		15											
Cassin's Sparrow		4															
Oregon Junco												1					
Gray-headed Junco								2		2		6	7	11	x		
Tree Sparrow										1		3					
Chipping Sparrow	37	4			2			1		3	13	4	2	5	x		18
Clay-colored Sparrow	32	5						1									
Brewer's Sparrow														1			
White-crowned Sparrow		1	5					1		1		1		4	x	5	3
White-throated Sparrow										1							
Lincoln's Sparrow									1						x		
Song Sparrow		1	4		x			4		2					x	4	6
TOTAL SPECIES - 190	87	86	21	38	57	61	19	61	45	53	45	85	9	61	103	42	51

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CHEYENNE AUDUBON CLUB

We have received a copy of the first issue of "The Meadowlark", of the Cheyenne (Wyoming) Audubon Club, newly organized in February.

Unusual observations reported in or near Cheyenne include an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak(May 15 - 22), an Orchard Oriole(May 25), two Mockingbirds, and a Black-bellied Plover and two Black-necked Stilts(May 8).

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WELDONA NOTES

By Howard Rollin

June 3, 1955:- The past month saw a break in the severe drouth May 25 and 26, with 1.6 inches of rain, the most here since August 6, 1954. The hills, however, are still brown or gray with only a faint tinge of green at the present time, excepting in the canyons where the winter snow caught. The birds here are all in very meager numbers, except Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks and Mourning Doves, which are very numerous. The Horned Larks are distributed just about everywhere and are singing and performing their flight songs frequently now; the first time they were noted performing was May 4. Young were first noted May 11; they appear to have raised a good number successfully and are nesting again at this time. Young Meadowlarks were on the wing May 4, also. The Cowbir is about commonly but is less numerous than earlier. Lark Buntings and Brewer's Sparrows are here in very small numbers and Lark Sparrows are about as numerous as usual. The Magpie is just about absent here and days go by without any being seen; no nests have been found, no doubt, a food shortage caused them to move out. The same can be said for the Marsh and Swainson's Hawks, but at least one Golden Eagle is seen nearly every day. Mockingbirds are present as usual, with two pairs here or close by in the canyons. Western Kingbirds are rare and no Eastern Kingbirds have been seen. Bullock's Oriole has been seen once only, no Cliff or Barn Swallows or Green-tailed Towhees, and only one warbler, a Yellowthroat, have been seen so far.

The following notes bring bird movements up-to-date:
Great Blue Heron - first, 1 5/8; 1 5/30
Mallard - last, 1 5/15
Sparrow Hawk - 1 5/14
Barn Owl - 1 5/6; date of arrival not known
Nighthawk - 4 5/25; 1 5/26
Red-headed Woodpecker - 3 5/20(very rare here)
Red-naped Common Sapsucker - 1 5/4(first record)
Eastern Kingbird - 1 5/6
Western Kingbird - again 5/4(after first, 4/29); still here
Empidonax Flycatcher - 1 5/25(very brown; Wright's or Traill's?)
Say's Phoebe - nesting 5/5
Rough-winged Swallow - remains rare, 2 5/23(after 4/24, 29)
Blue Jay - 1 5/17
Carolina Wren - first record, 1 5/26
Olive-backed Thrush - 1 5/26,31
Common Yellowthroat - 1 5/25
Bullock's Oriole - first, 2 5/26
Crow Blackbird - last, 1 5/15
Yellow-headed Blackbird - last, 1 5/15
Brewer's Blackbird - last, 1 5/18
Black-headed Grosbeak - 1 5/20(very rare here)
Blue Grosbeak - first, female, 1 5/31; male, 1 6/12
House Finch - first and only, 1 5/12
Lesser Goldfinch - 1 5/14
Lark Bunting - first female, 1 5/12; common 5/19, nesting at this time(first male, 4/28)
Grasshopper Sparrow - first, 1 5/14
Vesper Sparrow - last, 1 5/14
Pink-sided Oregon Junco - last, 1 5/14(latest date in 8 years; next latest, 4/19/54)
Chipping Sparrow - 5 5/26(first since 4/17)
Brewer's Sparrow - first 1 5/6; nesting at this time
Clay-colored Sparrow - first, 9 5/26,28
White-crowned Sparrow - last, 1 5/18

July 3:- A month ago the hills here showed only a very faint tinge of green and now, a month after the breaking of the long drought, they are luxuriant with grass everywhere. The rains continued until the 17th of June, with the big flood the 14th that washed out the Union Pacific tracks at the mouth of Wild Cat Creek and caused the wreck of the Challenger train. Two inches were recorded here and 3½ inches to the north and northwest. The rains did not have any adverse effect on bird life, apparently, unless the Killdeer lost their young, which were about before the flood; only one young was noted afterwards. More young Meadowlarks and Horned Larks are about at this time; most of those on high ground survived. The Horned Lark remains our most numerous bird; Meadowlark, Lark Sparrow, Nighthawk, Rock Wren and Mourning Dove are fairly common. Brewer's Sparrow is rare and the Lark Bunting which was everywhere a year ago is very uncommon right here though farther west more were noted a few days ago. The Western Kingbird and Bullock's Oriole that gave promise of nesting here are seen only occasionally. The Eastern Kingbird has also withdrawn from the creek where it was for a time. Mockingbirds, perhaps 4 or 5 pairs, are nesting about in the canyons. One pair of House Sparrows brought their young up from the canyons, where they nested. The Say's Phoebes, which successfully raised part of their first brood and gave promise of moving their nest to the chicken coop, decided to nest over the east house door and again have eggs, while the male is still feeding the first brood. The highlight of interest here is the nesting of the Golden Eagle within a mile of the house and its success in raising one or possibly 2 young. There have been reports of its nesting in the canyons farther east of here but this is the first noted this close. Magpies continue very uncommon and only a few young have been seen. All the Swallows remain rare, with only the Rough-winged nesting sparsely in the canyons. The Blue Grosbeak has not been seen since June 16, but may be nesting not far from here. A pair of Pheasant is still about.

The following notes record other data to date:
Double-crested Cormorant - first ever seen here, 200, 6/27; about 25 6/29
Swainson Hawk - largest number seen, 4 6/11
Marsh Hawk - largest number seen, 2 6/11
Brown Thrasher - 2 6/23, 24 & 25
Cliff Swallow - first 1, 6/11
Barn Swallow - first 1, 6/11

August 4, 1955: - The past month brought excessive heat and some rain, which does not appear to have affected bird life adversely in any way. The Lark Bunting, which is so rare this year, is still nesting at this time and thus is still singing, while there are small flocks of migrants working south. The first flock, of 15, was noted July 17. The Cowbird was also in small groups on the same date; the adults had left at this time and these appeared to be immature birds of the year. Lark Sparrow and Brewer's Sparrow have young on the wing. The Say's Phoebe's second nesting is successful; four young are on the wing. Mockingbirds of undetermined number are about, and these appear to be the adults and young of at least four families though more appear to be around at times. The Sage Thrasher, which had not been seen since April 28, reappeared July 12 and increased to 8 by August 1. Chipping sparrows appeared July 13 and indications are that they nested not far from here. The Blue Grosbeak is still singing along the creek and no doubt is nesting there, though no young have been seen yet. Mourning Doves have their young on the wing now and are common at all times. The Pheasant is about, but no young have been seen. The Marsh Hawk and Swainson's Hawk have been so scarce all summer that they are almost non-existent here. The Golden Eagle can be seen about every day; one and possibly two young were successfully raised and have been on the wing the past month. Horned Owl and Barn Owl are about in the canyons and there are a number of Burrowing Owls in one of the last prairie dog towns a couple of miles from here. Horned Larks are in small family groups now, evidently the young of the last nesting. They are common everywhere. The Rock Wren is common in the canyons, but no young have been seen. The Western Kingbird has been about all summer, but none nested near here.

Bullock's Oriole was about occasionally, also, but has not been seen since July 10. Rough-winged Swallows are here in their usual spare numbers. Both the Killdeer and the Nighthawk are about, the former rare now and the latter quite common. The Killdeer seems to have had a poor year, as only one young was seen.

The following is a list of other migration data:
Franklin's Gull - 200 and over 7/27 and are ranging over the hills most days
Double-crested Cormorant - 12 7/12; 2 7/21
Long-billed Curlew - 1 7/27
Solitary Sandpiper - 1 7/19; 1 7/30
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 5 7/10; 4 7/16. First & second dates for fall
Loggerhead Shrike - 1 7/30. First date for fall

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NOTES FROM DURANGO

June 4, 1955:- This has been the latest spring we have had for the past three or four years. The temperature for April was below normal with more wind than usual; precipitation was below normal and much of this fell as snow. The temperature for May was again below normal; precipitatipn was almost normal. The last snow of the season fell on May 2.

Birds have been lacking in numbers. No species was here in unusual numbers except the Western Tanager. These were here in greater numbers than I have ever seen. Most species were comparatively late returning but many were on time.

A check on April 29 showed no warblers, but on April 30 in the same area I found 1 Audubon's Warbler, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Pileolated Warbler, all males. On May 1 the first Macgillivray's Warbler. I did not find the Yellow Warbler until May 7, also the first Virginia's Warbler on that date. I missed the Orange-crowned entirely and have yet to see one. It is usually early, last of April or first of May. The Audubon's Warbler is fewer in numbers this year.

Last year the Green-tailed Towhees swarmed through and this year I have to look for them. The first was April 29. These species are fewer in number than last year: Common Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch and Scrub Jay. I now search for the Scrub Jay in the area where I used to find them daily. Pinyon Jays are still here in numbers in the old nesting area. Young were first observed out of the nest on April 24.

The first Bullock's Oriole was seen May 9; May 8 to 10 is the usual arrival date for this species. Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers were both late, the Grosbeak, May 16 and the Tanager on May 17. Starlings were common in Durango throughout April and May. They first appeared on March 6 and have increased in numbers. On March 6 I found only 5, and this was my first within the city limits.

Apparently most birds passed over this area without stopping, perhaps due to the weather conditions. On May 7 the morning sky was overcast, with increasing cloudiness and rain beginning around noon; the temperature was up from the preceding week. On a walk from 8 to 11 A.M., I found little activity on the ground, but the sky was literally alive with birds flying high toward the north. It was impossible to identify any except by flight-- swallows, hawks, vultures and one Golden Eagle flying comparatively low. The rain continued for three days.

-- Oppie Reames

REPORTS OF FIELD TRIPS

The June 5 trip to ST. MARY'S GLACIER was attended by eleven, led by John Flavin. Bad weather, cold with some falling snow, made birding poor and only 19 species were seen, including nothing unusual. No Pine Grosbeaks or Cassin's Finches, species which had been missing for several months, were found.

Fourteen people went to FORT MORGAN and WELDONA, June 19, a clear, hot day. At Fort Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hellstern conducted a trip along the South Platte River, where 36 species were found. The most interesting birds here were of three species, all observed during the last few minutes at that place: two pairs of Blue Grosbeaks, a male Indigo Bunting and a male Orchard Oriole. Other unusual species were Blue-winged Teal, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Horned Owl. After lunch, enjoyed in the shade at the Hellsterns', Mr. Hellstern led the way to Howard Rollin's ranch near Weldona. The main item of interest there was a nest of the Golden Eagle, containing one large young bird, on a steep hillside about 3/4-mile from the house, which was visited and photographed by some of the party, accompanied by Mr. Rollin. Twelve species were seen at the ranch, including a family of Say's Phoebes. For the entire day's trip from Denver, 55 species were noted.

The trip to MT. AUDUBON, led by Buryl Cummins, July 9, was attended by ten people, hiking from Brainard Lake to the top of the mountain. Thirty-nine species were noted for the entire trip, including Golden Eagle, White-tailed Ptarmigan(1), Three-toed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Common Raven, Dipper, and Red Crossbill(12).

The trip July 17 to SUMMIT LAKE, led by Carl Fortner, was attended by eleven people and was favored by an unusually warm, clear day. Near Bergen Park a Cooper's Hawk and near the Squaw Pass Road a Goshawk were seen. Near the lake, two White-tailed Ptarmigan about two weeks old were seen, but no adults. Other birds seen above timberline were many Water Pipits, Brown-capped Rosy Finches and White-crowned Sparrows, and one each of Prairie Falcon, Horned Lark and Common Raven. Red Crossbills were seen or heard at three places below timberline. The day's species count was 27.

The BROOK FOREST trip, Saturday afternoon, July 23, was attended by 9 people, led by Sadie Morrison. Seventeen species were noted, the most interesting being six Red Crossbills.

The Sunday morning trip to GENESEE MOUNTAIN PARK, July 31, was attended by nine people, Donald Thatcher leading. Twenty-two species were seen, of which the Red Crossbill seemed to be the most numerous. Other species of particular interest were two Black-headed Grosbeaks, unusual at that elevation, a Wright's Flycatcher(identified by its call) and two immature Cooper's Hawks.

No reports were received for the trips to Waterton(June 11) and East Portal (June 25).

* * * * *

BLACK SWIFTS

A hike on July 3 on the Loch Vale trail, in Rocky Mountain National Park, principally to find Black Swifts, was remarkably successful. A pair of the swifts circled overhead only a few minutes after we left the car, and was seen again a short time later. The birds were readily found and identified by their chattering call, which resembles somewhat the call of the Chimney Swift(familiar to all Easterners) and is quite different in quality from that of the White-throated Swift.

The most abundant bird found on this two-hour hike, at elevation 9200 to 9700 feet, was the Broad-tailed Hummingbird, which practically outnumbered all the other

species observed, as many as three being seen at once. Other species noted were one each of Violet-green Swallow, Audubon's and Pileolated Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee and White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows, and two Pine Siskins.

-- Donald M. Thatcher

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HUDSONIAN GODWIT IN COLORADO

John and Margaret Douglass report seeing a Hudsonian Godwit on a pond west of Jackson Lake Reservoir, in Morgan County, May 22, 1955, while returning to Denver from the Spring Count trip. To quote their report: "This bird was viewed through a 20-power telescope from a distance of 50 yards or so, in good light. The breast was ruddy, almost orange. The bill was orange at the base and was tipped with black- these colors were distinct. The top of the head was dark. Above the eyes there was a white line, while a distinct, thin, dark line ran through the eye. The legs appeared mud-colored, the little we saw of them. The bird spent most of its time just leg deep in the water. Wings long, flight pattern showing distinct black and white, fitting the description in Peterson's Eastern Guide." This is believed to be the first observation of the Hudsonian Godwit in Colorado.

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BIRDS OF THE SEASON

By Donald M. Thatcher

The past three months produced many bird records of unusual interest, most of which probably are the result of there being more active observers reporting than of climate or other natural factors. Repeated counts in the foothills, however, have found the abundance of several species to be quite different from those of the past few years. Noticeably reduced in numbers were the House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Cassin's Finch, while the Western Tanager was present in much greater numbers than usual(compare with Durango Notes, page 8, this issue). The return, in numbers, of the Red Crossbill after a year's complete absence was unexpected(see below). Of two other species which were missing last winter, the Pine Siskin seems to be more numerous than usual this summer, while the Pine Grosbeak has returned in smaller than usual numbers.

Following are some observations of migration, nesting or unusual species. Included are some earlier dates for species reported in the May NOTES and a number of observations from the Spring Count, reported here in more detail. See also Howard Rollin's Weldona Notes.

Pied-billed Grebe - adult with 2 young 6/27 Denver Federal Center Pond(DMT)
White Pelican - 35 4/17 Bonny Reservoir(RP), (40 5/14 reported May by J&MD)
Peregrine Falcon - 2 immature 5/30 Russel Lakes, San Luis Valley(J&MD)
Coot - 4 nests(3 with eggs) 7/6 Den. Fed. Center(KM)
Ringed(Semi-palmated) Plover - 1 5/5,7 Longmont(Mrs. CNC)
Piping Plover - 1 5/31 Marshon Lake(JF)
Black-bellied Plover - 2 5/14 Longmont(Mrs. CNC)
Long-billed Curlew - adult and young 7/8 Lowry Bombing Range, SE of Denver(JF); 7/28 Phillips County(LJL)
Upland Sandpiper(Upland Plover) - 1 5/31 Julesburg(J&MD)
Greater Yellowlegs - 7/25,26 Yuma & Phillips Counties(LJL)
Black-necked Stilt - 1 5/14 Longmont(Mrs. CNC)
Northern Phalarope - c.20 with same number Wilson's Phalaropes 5/29 near Antero Reservoir(Park Co.) (J&MD)

California Gull - 1 5/22 near Greeley(J&MD); 11 plus 7/30,31 pond N. of Overland Pk. (SW Denver) (DMT)
Black Tern - 4 5/27 Union Reservoir, Longmont(Mrs.CNC);1 6/1 Sloan's L.Denver(DMT)
Band-tailed Pigeon - 7 6/1 Drake(JA); 4(one singing) 6/1, 2 6/29, 3 7/10 Genesee Mtn, Park(DMT)
Poorwill - 1 5/21 NW Denver(R.Wheeler); 1 male 5/31 Congress Pk. Denver(TM)
Chimney Swift - 1 5/17 Cherry Creek-SE Denver(TM); 1 5/22 Julesburg(J&MD)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 1 5/8 Tinytown, 1 5/11 Dinosaur Nat'l Mon.(earlier dates) (RR)
Flicker hybrid - Yellow shafts, red nape mark, malar stripes mixed red & black, 5/22 dead on road near Sterling(J&MD)
- All characteristics of Red-shafted, plus red mark on each side of nape, back of neck gray 7/24,29 NW Denver(DMT)
Eastern Kingbird - 5/12 Logan Co.(LJL)
Crested Flycatcher - 3 5/21 Bonny Res.(JC)
Eastern Phoebe - 1 5/22 Julesburg(J&MD)
Say's Phoebe - 1 4/12 Craig(earlier date)(RR)
Wright's Flycatcher - 1 5/29,30, 6/1, 7/31(identified by call; sometimes near by Western Flycatcher calling at same time) Gen.Mtn. Pk.(DMT)
Eastern Pewee - 1 6/19,20,22 Berthoud, Colo.(identified by song)(JA)
Horned Lark - nest, 2 eggs & 1 young 6/30 Trail Ridge, Rocky Mtn. Nat'l. Pk.(DMT)
Blue Jay - 1 6/15 NW Denver(DMT)(only Denver report this season)
Pinyon Jay - 1 6/1 Drake(JA)
Brown Creeper - 1 5/24 Cheesman Pk.Denver(TM)(late)
Mockingbird - 1 5/12, 16 Congress Pk.,Denver(TM); 1 7/4,5 SE Denver(JF)
Wood Thrush - 1 5/22 Julesburg(J&MD)
Hermit Thrush - nest, 4 eggs 6/11 Gen. Mtn. Pk.(DMT)
Olive-backed Thrush - 18 in 9 occurrences 5/22 near Crook(J&MD); 5/25 Ft. Morgan(EH)
Veery - 1 feeding with Olive-backed and Hermit Thrushes 5/17 NW Denver(MC)
Eastern Bluebird - 2 4/19 Bonny Res.(RR)
Water Pipit - 2 nests with eggs 6/30 Trail Ridge, Rocky Mtn. Nat'l. Pk.(AMB,JA)
Cedar Waxwing - 1 6/2 NW Denver(DMT)
Common Starling - nesting(eggs) 5/10 Juniper Spgs.(Moffat Co.); nesting 5/11 Dinosaur Nat'l. Mon.(RR)
Bell's Vireo - 1 5/22 Julesburg(J&MD)
Red-eyed Vireo - 1 5/24, 6/2 Cheesman Pk.,Denver(TM); 1 6/5 NW Denver(DMT)
Warbling Vireo - 2 nests with eggs 6/26 Gen. Mtn. Pk.(DMT)
Prothonotary Warbler - 1 5/22 near Crook(J&MD)
Brewster's Warbler(hybrid) - 1 5/22 near Crook(J&MD)
Nashville Warbler - 2 5/22 near Crook(J&MD)
Blackburnian Warbler - 1 5/22 near Crook (J&MD)
Ovenbird - 1 5/12 NW Denver(MC)
Bobolink - 2 M, 1 F 5/22 Boulder(Mrs.AHB,CC); 1M 7/8 near Crook(LJL)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - first(male) at Fed.Ctr. 4/23(RR)(earlier date);All males left Fed. Ctr. pond few days before July 20; few females with young still present Aug. 8(DMT)
Orchard Oriole - 6 in 4 occurrences 5/22 near Crook(J&MD); 1 chestnut male 6/19 at Fort Morgan*
Baltimore Oriole - 6 in 3 occurrences 5/22 near Crook(J&MD)
Indigo Bunting - pair 5/28 Boulder(Mrs. CNC); 1M 6/12 Boulder(DMT);1M 6/19 Fort Morgan*
Dickcissel - 6/30 Logan Co.(LJL)
Evening Grosbeak - 1 5/2, 4 5/3, 1 5/5,18,20,26 Cheesman Pk.,Denver(TM); 1 5/23 Golden(J&MD)
Red Crossbill - Flock of c.10 6/11 Gen.Mtn.Pk. First in Denver area since 6/17/54. Numerous since(Palmer Lake, Mt. Evans vicinity, Rocky Mtn. Nat'l. Pk) generally in song, may be nesting(DMT)

Lark Bunting - count of 140 between Kit Carson and Denver(150 miles) 5/11(TM)
Gray-headed Junco - 1 5/24 Cheesman Pk.,Denver(late date)(TM)
Harris's Sparrow - 1 Dec. 16 to May 13 at feeder,Longmont(Mrs.CNC)
White-crowned Sparrow - 3 5/22 near Crook(J&MD); 1 5/25 Cheesman Pk.,Denver(TM); 2 nests with eggs on ground under dwarf willows well above timberline,Trail Ridge, Rocky Mtn.Nat'l. Pk.(DMT) 6/30.

CONTRIBUTORS: Jay Arnold, Alfred M. Bailey, Mrs. A. H. Bivans, John Chapin, Mrs. C. N. Collister, Catherine Crone, Mrs. M. Crow, John & Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Edward Hellstern, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, Karl Menzel, Robert Poley, Ronald Ryder, Donald M. Thatcher, Ruth Wheeler. * Scheduled Club trip.

First arrival dates for a number of species at Paonia, on the Western Slope, were received from Homer V. Griffin, as listed below. Following most of these have been added, in parentheses, the first Eastern Slope arrivals. It will be noted that of the fourteen species for which we have comparable dates,seven arrived an average of 6½ days earlier at Paonia, two on the same date, and only four were later there, averaging 4 days, the average for all being about 2 days earlier at Paonis. The earlier Western Slope average arrival is emphasized by the fact that the Eastern Slope observations were by a large number of observers and from an area extending from Sedalia to Logan County(nearly 150 miles).

Sparrow Hawk - 4/5 (winters at Denver)
Mourning Dove - 4/11 (4/11)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 5/4 (5/8)
Western Kingbird - 4/30 (4/29)
Say's Phoebe - 4/16 (4/12)
Mountain Bluebird - 4/3 (2/28)
Water Pipit - 5/5 (wintered at Denver)
Audubon's Warbler - 5/4 (4/23)
Bullock's Oriole - male 5/4, female 5/9 (5/10)
Brewer's Blackbird - 4/14 (4/17)
Western Tanager - 5/10 (5/14)
Black-headed Grosbeak - 5/8 (5/8)
Lazuli Bunting - 4/29 (5/3)
American Goldfinch - 4/18 (winters)
Green-tailed Towhee - 4/19 (5/1)
Vesper Sparrow - 4/14 (4/13)
Chipping Sparrow - 4/12 (4/25)

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COLORADO BIRD CLUB OFFICERS - 1955-1956

The following officers for 1955-56 were elected at the May meeting:

President: Donald Thatcher
Vice-president: James Humphrey
Corresponding Secretary: Catherine Hurlbutt
Recording Secretary: Mrs. T. L. Dement
Treasurer: Leonard Licht
Directors: (2 years) Mrs. C. D. Voris, Otto Wlassak
(1 year, replacing J. Humphrey) Sadie Morrison

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 1955

(No events are scheduled for August)

Sept.

11 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip to Red Rocks and Genesee Mountain Parks - early land migrants - Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) - meet Main Library (Civic Center). Transportation 50¢

18 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip to Barr Lake and vicinity - early water and shorebird migrants - John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200) - meet Colorado and Montview Blvds. Transp. 75¢

24 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip to Marston Lake - water and shorebird migrants - Sadie Morrison, leader (MA3-0840) - meet West Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. Transp. 50¢

27 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History

Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings and field trips.
Transportation is by private cars. Charge is the suggested amount for those riding with others.

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A REMINDER

The Club's year for activities, business and dues begins in September.

Your dues pay for this bulletin.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 3 No. 1 September 1955

WELDONA NOTES

By Howard Rollin

Sept. 6, 1955: The past month saw a drop in the excessive heat of July, and a return of somewhat cooler nights. The rains, however, continued, 3.2 inches having been recorded here for the month, and as nearly 2 inches of that came in as gentle, all-night rain, the benefit was much greater than if it had fallen in a few minutes. The hills are still faintly green with the grass most luxuriant.

Bird life here has remained about the same as last month, except that migrants have increased. Horned Larks are in small groups still; Meadowlarks are distributed about the same. The Lark Bunting continued rare and only small flocks of migrants have been noted; young were on the wing here August 25, 1½ to 2 months later than their usual time. Marsh and Swainson's Hawks are about commonly now, and of the latter 6 or more can be seen almost any time. Golden Eagles are, of course, still about. Magpies have become common again and 15 to 20 have been noted in flocks. No young of the Rock Wren have been noted, but one Wren was seen feeding a Cowbird, August 17. Chipping Sparrows, so very rare last spring, have been very common since July 25 and are still seen in fair numbers at this date. The Clay-colored Sparrows, also so rare in the spring, are about fairly commonly, also; first seen, 3, August 28. Loggerhead Shrikes are very common this fall, more so than in any other year of the last ten. Sage Thrashers are still here inthe same numbers, 6 or 8. The Poor-will has not been seen so far this year.

The following notes bring bird movements up-to-date ("Last" dates are tentative, as some stragglers may show up later.):

Sparrow Hawk - first, 1 8/12 and has been rare, becoming common at this date
Red-tailed Hawk - first, 1 8/29
Ring-neck Pheasant - not seen for last month
Plover - unidentified, 1 8/14, 29
Killdeer - rare
Solitary Sandpiper - again, 1 8/8 and 2 8/14 (see August report)
Franklin Gulls - about 7/27 to 8/26, but not seen since
Mourning Doves - common
Night Hawk - rare to present
Eastern Kingbird - 1 8/23
Western Kingbird - common still
Say's Phoebe - common to present
Western Wood Pewee - first, 1 8/18; 1 8/26; 9/4
Least Flycatcher - 1 9/2
Rough-wing Swallow - last, 2 8/1
Barn Swallow - near Fort Morgan, 1 9/1
Mockingbird - last, 1 8/21
Yellow Warbler - 1 8/14
Unidentified Warbler - 1 8/21
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 2 8/29, 1 9/16 (see August)
Red-winged Blackbird - first, 1 8/21; not seen again
Brewer's Blackbird - first, 5 8/29
Bullock's Oriole - last, 1 8/29
Cowbird - last, 1 9/6

Blue Grosbeak - young, 2 8/12
Lesser Goldfinch - 1 8/12
Lark Sparrow - last, 2 8/25
Brewer's Sparrow - last, 1 9/4
Vesper Sparrow - first, 1 8/31
McCown Longspur - first, 6 9/2, again 1 9/6

I was much interested to see the Crested Flycatcher on the Spring Count list. It has been noted here twice, September 19, 1941 and September 27,1946.

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REVISION OF REPORT ON 1955 STATE-WIDE SPRING COUNT
(June-July-August,1955 Colorado Bird Notes)

An additional species, Baird's Sandpiper, seen by Thompson Marsh at Cherry Creek (S.E. Denver) increases the species total for the Spring Count to 191.

A number of errors were made in the tabulations, as follows:

Page 2: List of Localities and Observers
for Column 7: add Mrs. Mary Crow, Thompson Marsh
for Column 10: change "Mrs." to "Mr." Newton Miller
Table
Column 8: change Canada Goose, 1 to 2
add Swainson's Hawk, 1
Column 12: delete Lesser Scaup, 10; add Ruddy Duck, 10

Page 3:
Column 1: delete Avocet, 1
Column 3: add Horned Owl, 4; delete Burrowing Owl, 4; delete Red-headed Woodpecker, 3 and Western Kingbird, 1; change Say's Phoebe, 1 to 5
Column 5: add x for Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope and Ring-billed Gull
Column 7: add Nighthawk, 1; add Baird's Sandpiper (after Lesser Yellow-legs) 1
Column 12: add Black Tern, 2
Column 14: change White-throated Swift to 32; delete Broad-tailed Hummingbird, 32
Column 16: change Sparrow Hawk to 2

Page 4:
Column 1: delete Bobolink, 10
Column 2: add Bobolink, 10
Column 10: add House Wren, 2
Column 14: change Violet-green Swallow from 40 to 12

Page 5:
Column 1: add Crow Blackbird, 9
Column 3: delete Blue Grossbeak, 1; add Lark Sparrow, 20; add Brewer's Sparrow, 6; delete White-crowned Sparrow, 5, and Song Sparrow, 4
Column 9: change Lazuli Bunting,2 to 3
Column 11: add Brown-headed Cowbird, 3

Change total species: whole count, 190 to 191; column 3, 21 to 18; column 7, 19 to 21; column 10, 53 to 54; column 11, 45 to 46; column 12, 85 to 86; column 14, 61 to 60.

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REPORTS OF FIELD TRIPS

The trip to RED ROCKS PARK and GENESEE MOUNTAIN PARK, September 11, was attended by seven people, led by Donald Thatcher. At Red Rocks, twenty-two species were seen including migrant White-throated Swifts (10), Violet-green Swallows, Townsend's Solitaire, Pileolated Warbler (2), Clay-colored Sparrow (flock) and immature White-crowned Sparrows (2). Seventeen species were seen at Genesee Mountain Park, including Horned Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker (5) and Red Crossbill (several). Total species count for the trip was 41.

Eight members made the trip to BARR LAKE and vicinity, September 18. Forty-seven species were recorded, including seven ducks, almost all in eclipse plumage, and eleven shorebirds. Shorebirds included Greater (1) and Lesser (many) Yellowlegs, Baird's, Least, Stilt, Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpipers, Dowitcher and many American Avocets and Wilson's Phalarope. One Ring-billed Gull and many hundreds of Franklin's Gulls were seen. Small land bird migrants included Rock Wren, Audubon's, Macgillivray's and Pileolated Warbler, and Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows.

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BIRDS OF THE MONTH

By Donald M. Thatcher

Fall migration appears to be proceeding normally, with most species considerably later than in 1954, an unusually early year for both spring and fall migrations. The most notable occurrences have been the unusual numbers of Wilson's Phalarope and Red-headed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker (plains and foothills) and Red-breasted Nuthatch (foothills). Following is a list of late-summer nesting data, early fall migrants and some unusual spring observations.

Contributors: Jay Arnold, Mrs. C. N. Collister, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Leonard Licht, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, Mrs. Aven Nelson, Hazel Thatcher, Donald Thatcher. Asterisk (*) indicates scheduled club trip.

Eared Grebe - 1 (winter plumage) 9/4 Barr Lake (DT,LL)
Western Grebe - 1 8/28 near Pueblo (DT)
Pied-billed Grebe - adult with 5 tiny young 9/1; same 5 young 3/4 grown 9/21, Denver Federal Center (DT)
White Pelican - 4 6/14; 1 7/14, 8/12,20 near Longmont (Mrs.CNC)
Little Blue Heron - 5 6/28 Boulder (Mrs.CNC)
Green Heron - 1 7/1 Boulder (Mrs.CNC)
Long-billed Curlew - 1 8/20 near Longmont (Mrs.CNC)
Solitary Sandpiper - 8/29,30 Evergreen Lake (TM) [illegible] Barr Lake
Wilson's Phalarope - first noted 8/16 large flock near Westminster (DT); 1000 approx, 9/4 (DT,LL), 9/18* (Unusually abundant; very few in 1954)
Parasitic Jaeger - 1 7/1 near Longmont (not certainly identified) (Mrs.CNC)
California Gull - several, 5/12 to 8/29 Longmont (Mrs.CNC)
Ring-billed Gull - 1 9/18 Mile-high Lakes* (first fall record)
Franklin's Gull - 1 7/28 near Edgewater, first fall record (DT); common by 8/4 (TM)
Mourning Dove - incubating 8/30, Federal Center (DT)
Burrowing Owl - common first half of August, over 100 8/16, none since - N.E. Colorado (vicinity Sterling) (LJL)
White-throated Swift - approximately 10 9/11 Red Rocks (late migrants)*
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 1 8/4 last record, Denver; 2 8/24 near Buena Vista; 1 8/26 Great Sand Dunes National Monument (DT)
Red-headed Woodpecker - 22 flying westward 9/3 near Daniel's Park (JF)
Eastern Kingbird - common until 7/25, last 1 7/28 N.E. Colorado (LJL); 1 8/27,28 Great Sand Dunes National Monument (DT)

Western Kingbird - present in small numbers at end of August, N.E. Colorado (LJL)
Western Pewee - 2 9/7 Red Rocks (last) (DT)
Vermilion Flycatcher - 1 5/1, Colorado Springs (Mrs.AN)
Tree Swallow - 1 9/5 Evergreen (TM)
Pinon Jay - 4 9/5, Evergreen (TM)
Clark's Nutcracker - unusual flight - 6 9/11, Genesee Mountain Park; 8 9/16 Lowry Bombing Range (JF); 40 plus 9/17 Genesee Mountain Park (DT)
White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 9/14, N.W. Denver (first fall) (HT); (first 1954, 8/20)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 8 plus, 9/17, Genesee Mountain (very unusual numbers; has been more frequent all summer than in several years) (DT)
Rock Wren - 9/10,15, S.E. Denver (TM); 4 9/18 Barr Lake*
Mockingbird - last 8/18, N.E. Colorado (LJL)
Brown Thrasher - 1 9/9, Federal Center (DT)
Loggerhead Shrike - common (2 or 3 per day in field) April 8 through September 1, approx. 30 9/2, N.E. Colorado (LJL)
Red-eyed Vireo - 1 singing 8/13, N. W. Denver (DT)
Warbling Vireo - 2-3 8/24-28, Great Sand Dunes Nat. Mon. (last) (DT)
Yellow Warbler - 2 9/4, Barr Lake (DT,LB) (last)
Northern Waterthrush - 1 9/4 Evergreen (TM)
American Redstart - 1 female 9/4 Barr Lake (DT,LL)
Bullock's Oriole - 1 8/17 N.W. Denver (DT) (last)
Western Tanager - 1 or 2 daily 8/30 to present (9/21) N.W. Denver (DT); 9/8-15 S.E. Denver (TM); (first appeared 1954, 7/23)
Summer (Cooper's) Tanager - 4/29 Colorado Springs (Mrs.AN)
Blue Grosbeak - 1 7/1, 8/29 near Longmont (Mrs.CNC); pair W. of Berthoud 8/12; pair N.W. of Berthoud 8/1 (JA)
Evening Grosbeak - several 8/20-23 Golden (JD,MD), (first 1954, 8/27); 4 9/7 Red Rocks Park (DT)
Lesser Goldfinch - daily 6/25 to 8/30 N.W. Denver (DT); abundant 9/7 (DT), 1 9/11* Red Rocks Park; daily 9/6-15 S.E. Denver (TM)
Lark Bunting - "the most common small bird on the dryland," August, N.E. Colorado (LJL) (Compare with Weldona notes, page 1.)
Clay-colored Sparrow - several small flocks 9/7 (DT), 9/11* Red Rocks Park

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SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR THE VALIDITY OF RECORDS
(from Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 9, No. 1 - February, 1955)

(Editor's note:- These criteria are intended primarily for use in publishing State or other regional books, for which better than sight records are required for the listing of a species. For our purposes, sight records must be relied upon almost entirely, as almost none of our observers either desire or are permitted to collect and as all sight records of unusual species or occurrences are much desired for publication in Colorado Bird Notes. However, the criteria listed below should furnish a good idea of the kind of supporting information desired and help explain why some reports are omitted and others questioned.)

Our readers may be interested in the suggested criteria for the acceptance of bird records adopted recently by the New York State Bird Book Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Groups in other sections of the country might care to adapt or accept these criteria for their own records.

Of all the subjects which must be considered in the planning of a regional ornithology, none is as delicate, controversial, and yet necessary, as the determination of which records shall be deemed valid and which shall not. The New York State Bird Book Committee, therefore, has considered it important to set up certain criteria for the acceptance of records, for the guidance not only of the eventual editor of the book, but of present Regional Editors and member clubs now engaged in amassing local data.

The criteria listed below cannot be taken as an absolute standard. Since every

editor has his own standards of validity, the Committee's scale can be at best a considered recommendation. It can serve for all bird club "censorship" committees of record. A state bird book can be no better than the reliability of its records, and no one is better qualified to pass on the reliability of those records than the observer's own fellow club-members.

In the following listing of criteria, order of acceptance is in the order of rank.

Records meeting the following criteria are deemed WHOLLY ACCEPTABLE:

1. A record supported by a fully-documented, available specimen.
2. A record supported by an unquestionable and documented photograph or motion picture.
3. A record supported by an unquestionable and documented sound recording.
4. A record supported by a specimen no longer available, but previously verified by a competent authority.
5. A record supported by a captured ~~by xxxxxxxxxx~~ live specimen, verified by a competent authority, and later released.
6. A record supported by conclusive and unquestionable circumstantial evidence in lieu of a specimen, such as a readily identifiable footprint, nest, egg or part of a specimen.
7. A sight record of an easily-identified species, supported by multiple observations, and appropriate as to date and place.

Records meeting the following criteria are deemed ACCEPTABLE when accompanied by supporting documentation:

8. A sight record of a species easy to identify, appropriate as to date and place, for which there are previous comparable records, by a single competent observer.
9. A sight record of a species easy to identify, inappropriate as to date or place, but for which there are previous comparable records, by multiple competent observers.
10. A sight record of a species easy to identify, inappropriate as to date or place, but for which there are previous comparable records, by a single competent observer.

Records which do not meet any of the above criteria are deemed QUESTIONABLE, and particularly subject to scrutiny, and should not be considered ACCEPTABLE without strong supporting evidence.

Records meeting the following criteria are deemed UNACCEPTABLE under any circumstances:

11. A sight record of a species difficult to identify, inappropriate as to date or place, for which no previous records exist, by a single observer.
12. A sight record of a species difficult to identify, regardless of date, place, or previous records, by an observer or observers of unknown competence, or known incompetence.
13. A record of any kind for which there is no documentation or supporting evidence.
14. A record of a species for which the possibility exists of its being an escaped or released caged bird.

In considering the validity of sight records, the following factors, in addition to ease of identification, appropriateness of date and place, and number of observers, should be weighed: Length of time under observation, distance of observation, weather and lighting conditions, observable habits, size comparison with other nearby birds, whether in flight or at rest, whether song or note was heard, optical instruments used, previous experience with the species by observer(s).

For the purpose of this classification, the term sight record includes both appearance and voice. Thus certain species may be unmistakable both as to appearance and voice, and a record might be acceptable on either or both counts. Other species may be easily identified by either appearance or voice, but not by both, and the determining factor would be which observation was claimed. Contrarily, the term " difficult to identify" is deemed to refer to a species difficult to identify by both voice and appearance.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1955

September

27 (Tues.) 8 PM First Regular Meeting of 1955-56 Bird Club year.
Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of Denver Museum of Natural History, will present a film on the Museum's Version of the Vanishing Prairie. (At 6:30 PM, same date, Dr. Bailey presents this program on TV Channel 9. Come to the meeting and see it in color)
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(Please use north (employees') entrance)

October

8 (Sat.) 1PM Trip to Bax Ranch, near Morrison. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924)
Meet West Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. Transportation, 50¢.

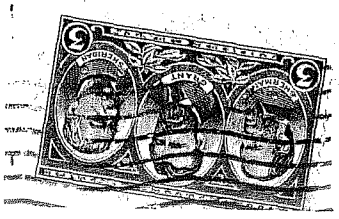
16 (Sun.) 7 AM Trip to Marston Lake. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479).
Meet at Main Library (Civic Center). ½ day. Trans. 50¢.

22 (Sat.) 1 PM Trip to Red Rocks Park. Buryl Cummins, leader (GE3-3787).
Meet West Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. Trans. 50¢.

25 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting - Denver Museum of Natural History

Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings and trips.
Transportation is by private cars; charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.

Mrs. Ruth Wheeler
3340 W. 37th Ave.
Denver 11
Colo.



Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 3 No. 2 October 1955

GENESEE MOUNTAIN BREEDING POPULATION STUDIES

by Donald M. Thatcher

The three breeding bird population studies which were reported in the October 1953 and September 1954 COLORADO BIRD NOTES were again repeated this year. Following is the report of these studies for the 1955 season.

These studies are made as part of a countrywide project of the National Audubon Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for which this was the nineteenth season. The results are published annually in the December "Audubon Field Notes." These are ecological studies, intended to determine the species and numbers of birds breeding in known areas of various uniform habitats, especially those typical of large regions. Changes in bird populations due to changing environmental conditions or to cyclic fluctuations of the various species are determined by repetition of these studies over several years. Field work consists principally of locating on a new copy of a map of a study area for each of several trips all birds seen or heard, with notes on their species, sex and nesting or other activity. At the close of the season, the data from all trips are transferred to a separate map for each species and the probable breeding territory for each pair of birds is determined. Particular attention is given to locating birds of the same species seen or heard simultaneously and to all activities indicative of their breeding within the area, such as nest-building or the feeding of young. Nests are located when possible, but location of the nests in a study area is not necessary.

Two of the areas studied are of 20 acres each, in the approximately 95-year-old forest stands on the north slope of Genesee Mountain at elevations between 7900 and 8200 feet above sea level. One, typical of much of the lower part of the Canadian or Montane life zone, is of nearly pure Lodgepole Pine, with considerable Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine near its edges. The other, typical of the upper part of the Transition or Foothills life zone, is of Douglas Fir with a small amount of Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pine. The third area, typical of the greater part of the Transition life zone in this region, is 67 acres of practically pure, all-aged Ponderosa Pine, with mostly southerly exposure, at elevations of 7700 to 7950 feet. All are located in Genesee Mountain Park, one of the Denver Mountain Parks, about 15 miles west of Denver, in Jefferson County. The two smaller areas have been covered during five breeding seasons and the third during four seasons.

The accompanying tables summarize the results for each area for the four or five seasons of study, with an average for all the years of study. Species are arranged in their average order of abundance. Fractional pairs or birds should be considered as representing territories, which may lie only partly within a study area, rather than as birds. A plus (+) indicates less than half a pair or territory.

The 1955 season was outstanding principally in that the total populations of all habitats were much greater than those of any of the previous years of study. Each of the north-slope areas exceeded its average for the three preceding seasons by 50 per cent and the Ponderosa Pine exceeded its preceding three-year average by 33 per cent.

Comparison of the five-year averages for the Lodgepole Pine and Douglas Fir forests indicates their similarity as habitats for birds. In both, the same eight species are the most numerous, with the three most abundant species occurring in the same order

(Continued on page 9)

Lodgepole Pine Forest

Species	5-year average per 100 acres	5-year average 20 acres	Yearly numbers (20 acres) 1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Audubon's Warbler	23½	4½	4½	3	4	4	8
Mountain Chickadee	14½	3	2	3	2	2½	5
Gray-headed Junco	12	2½	1½	2½	3	1	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6½	1½	0	1	3	2	½
Pine Siskin	5½	1	1	2	0	1	1½
Hermit Thrush	5	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brown Creeper	4	1	1	1	1	1	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	2½	½	1	0	1	½	0
Hairy Woodpecker	1½	½	0	½	0	½	½
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1	+	0	0	0	½	½
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	+	1	0	0	0	0
Red Crossbill	1	+	1	0	0	0	0
Am. Magpie	1	+	0	0	+	+	½
Western Flycatcher	½	+	0	½	0	0	0
Am. Robin	½	+	0	0	0	0	½
Am. Crow	+	+	0	0	+	0	+
Cooper's Hawk	+	+	+	0	0	0	0
Number of species		17	10	9	9	11	11
Number of pairs or territorial males on area	--	16	14	14½	15	14	22
Number of pairs or territorial males per 100 acres	80	--	70	73	75	70	110

Douglas Fir Forest

Species	5-year average per 100 acres	5-year average 20 acres	Yearly numbers (20 acres) 1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Audubon's Warbler	23½	4½	3½	4	2½	5½	8
Mountain Chickadee	11½	2½	1½	2	2	2	4
Gray-headed Junco	10½	2	2	2	1½	3	2
Hermit Thrush	7½	1½	1	1	1	2	2½
Brown Creeper	4½	1	½	1	1	1	1
Pine Siskin	4	1	0	1	1	½	1½
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	1	0	1	1½	0	½
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	½	0	1	0	1	0
Am. Magpie	1½	½	1	0	+	0	½
Am. Robin	1½	½	0	0	1	0	½
Western Flycatcher	1	+	½	0	½	0	0
Pygmy Nuthatch	1	+	0	0	1	0	0
Western Tanager	1	+	0	½	½	0	0
Hairy Woodpecker	½	+	0	0	0	0	½
Red-breasted Nuthatch	½	+	½	0	0	0	0
Cooper's Hawk	+	+	+	0	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	+	+	0	0	+	0	0
Number of species		17	9	9	13	7	10
Number of pairs or territorial males on area	--	15	10½	13½	13½	15	21
Number of pairs or territorial males per 100 acres	75	--	53	68	68	75	105

Ponderosa Pine Forest

Species	4-year average per 100 acres	4-year average 67 acres	Yearly numbers (67 acres) 1952	1953	1954	1955
Pygmy Nuthatch	14	9½	6	10½	12½	9
Gray-headed Junco	11	7½	6	8½	7	9
Mountain Chickadee	7	5	5½	4½	3	6
Audubon's Warbler	7	4½	4	5	3	6½
Am. Robin	7	4½	4	3	5½	5½
Chipping Sparrow	6	4	4	2½	3½	6
Western Pewee	3	2	1	2	3	3
Western Bluebird	3	2	2	2	1½	3
Steller's Jay	3	2	2	2	2	2
Western Tanager	3	2	1	2	1	4
Violet-green Swallow	3	2	1	2	2	2
Pine Siskin	3	2	2	2	1	2
Solitary Vireo	3	2	½	2	2	2
Western Flycatcher	2	1½	0	1½	2	2½
White-breasted Nuthatch	1½	1	1½	1	1½	1
Red Crossbill	1½	1	3	1	0	1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1½	1	1	1	½	2
Williamson's Sapsucker	1½	1	1	1½	0	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1½	1	1	1	1	0
Hermit Thrush	1½	1	1	1	0	1
Townsend's Solitaire	1½	1	1	1	1	0
Mourning Dove	1	½	0	0	½	1
Green-tailed Towhee	1	½	0	½	0	1
Common Nighthawk	1	½	0	1	0	+
Red-shafted Flicker	+	+	0	0	0	1
House Wren	+	+	0	1	0	0
Virginia's Warbler	+	+	0	1	0	0
Cassin's Finch	+	+	0	½	½	0
Red-tailed Hawk	+	+	½	0	0	0
Horned Owl	+	+	0	0	½	0
Cooper's Hawk	+	+	0	0	0	+
Am. Sparrow Hawk	+	+	0	0	0	+
Blue Grouse	+	+	0	+	0	0
Number of species		33	21	27	21	25
Number of pairs or territorial males on area	--	59	49	61	54½	72½
Number of pairs or territorial males per 100 acres	89	--	73	91	82	109

(Continued from first page)---- of abundance and in nearly equal numbers. Six other species occur in both, in small numbers. Each habitat has three additional species which were not recorded in the other; these, however, are mostly species which prefer the surrounding, warmer Ponderosa Pine forest and thus are not commonly breeders in either Douglas Fir or Lodgepole Pine.

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

October 3, 1955 -- Usual numbers of Marsh, Swainson's and Sparrow Hawks were recorded during the past month, and the Golden Eagles are still present. Killdeer and other water birds continue to be scarce. Franklin's Gulls re-appeared September 26 (the first since Aug. 26) and varying numbers have been seen to the present date. The only ducks seen here were one flock of about 75 Mallards, Sept. 22. Barn Owls nested again in the canyon, but the number raised is not known; only one immature has been seen near the nest site. Horned Owls are extremely numerous this fall. Mourning Doves are still numerous, but are slowly decreasing in numbers. Western Meadowlarks are common; some are singing at this time. Horned Larks, also, are numerous.

Most unusual feature of the fall migration is the large numbers of Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows and McCown's and Lapland Longspurs. White-crowned Sparrows are here in greater than usual numbers, also. McCown's Longspur was first recorded Sept. 2 and was very numerous by the last of September; many are still here. The first Lapland Longspurs were seen Sept. 28 (2); they are becoming common at this time. Usually McCown's has moved on south before the Lapland arrives, but this year both are present. The last Chipping Sparrows (3) were noted Sept 12. The first Clay-colored Sparrows (3) were seen Aug. 28; they are still here in considerable numbers.

The following notes bring bird movements up-to-date:

Common Nighthawk - last 1 9/12
Western Kingbird - last 1 9/30 (8 days later than previous record)
Say's Phoebe - still present
Western Pewee - last 2 9/13
Barn Swallow - last 1 9/13; near Fort Morgan, 25 9/26
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 9/13
House Wren - 1 9/7 (recorded only once)
Rock Wren - still present; no young noted.
Catbird - 1 9/21-22 (rare here)
Sage Thrasher - still present
Am. Robin - first 1 9/27;28
Mountain Bluebird - first 2 9/29, again 10/3
Townsend's Solitaire - first 2 9/29, again 10/1 (rare)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 9/10,11
Loggerhead Shrike - last 1 9/24
Townsend's Warbler - 1 9/28 (2nd record here; the first, 9/8/53)
Yellow-breasted Chat - 1 9/14 (rare)
Pileolated Warbler - first 1 9/17,18
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 5 9/10 (scarce)
Rusty Blackbird - 9 9/28 (first record)
Brewer's Blackbird - a very few still here
Spotted Towhee - first 1 9/29 (still here)
Common Goldfinch - 1 9/11 (very rare)
Lark Bunting - last 2 9/9
Vesper Sparrow - a few present
Oregon Junco:
  Shufeldt's - first 1 10/1
  Montana - first 1 9/21, 1 9/29 to present
  Pink-sided - first 1 9/30, 10/1 to present
White-crowned Sparrow - first 1 9/14, 3 9/23

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BIRDS OF THE MONTH

By Donald M. Thatcher

The fall migration is noticeably later than that of a year ago, although the 1954 season, too, was mild and somewhat later than normal. Comparable dates for the two years are noted below for a few species migrating on the plains.

Two Corvids have appeared in unusual flights. One, Clark's Nutcracker, has been seen in large numbers on the plains as far as thirty miles east of the mountains, also at Daniels Park and Red Rocks and commonly at several places in the foothills. The other, the Pinon Jay, has been reported at Evergreen, the Red Rocks and Denver.

An unusual find was an adult, light-phase Parasitic Jaeger at Marston Lake, seen well September 25 by John Flavin and John Chapin. (A similar bird at the same place, October 25, 1953, is believed to be the only previous record for this species in the Denver area since 1889.) A larger, dark bird with Jaeger-like habits was seen with the gulls at Marston Lake during the Club trip the preceding day, Sept. 24 and again by Sadie Morrison, Sept 30. This bird is believed to be a Skua or possibly an immature Pomerine Jaeger, either of which fits the description. Neither species appears to have to have been reported previously for Colorado, but the latter has been seen in Nebraska (Pearson, "Birds of America", part I, page 34).

Following are a number of migration dates and some summer data. Contributors: Jay Arnold, Mrs. C. N. Collister, Catherine Crone, John & Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Robert Glover, Thompson Marsh, Donald & Hazel Thatcher, Mrs. Ruth Woodward. Asterisk (*) indicates scheduled Club trip.

Common Loon - 2 10/16 Marston Lake *
White Pelican - 1 10/2 (DT,RG); 1 10/16 * Marston Lake
Double-crested Cormorant - 2 10/2 Marston Lake (RG,DT)
Snow Goose (Lesser) - 125 in 2 flocks 10/1 Fort Collins (JD,MD)
Redhead - pair 7/11 Denver Federal Center (DT); few 10/2 (DT,RG); 50 10/16 * Marston Lake
Swainson's Hawk - 1 9/25 near Ft. Collins (JD,MD); 1 10/1 near Georgetown (TM); 1 10/2 Red Rocks (RG,DT)
Amer. Sparrow Hawk - young in nest 8/24-27 camp ground, Great Sand Dunes National Monument (HT,DT); 41 (20 occurrences) 9/22, 131 (6 occ.) 9/25 vicinity of Fort Collins (JD,MD)
Sandhill Crane - about 600 in 3 flocks 10/1 Lowry Bombing Range (20 miles SE of Denver) (JF)
Snowy Plover - 4 8/12 (Mrs.CNC), 2 9/5 (Mrs.CNC,JA) near Longmont
American Avocet - 1 9/22 n. Ft. Collins (JD,MD)
Common Nighthawk - daily 9/27-10/11 SE Denver (TM); 1 10/12 SE Denver (JF); 1 10/13 Den. Fed. Ctr. (DT). (Last 1954, 9/26)
White-throated Swift - (last) 10 10/12 Red Rocks Park (RG,DT)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 1 female 9/16 SE Denver (TM) (late)
Western Kingbird - (last) 1 9/18 SE Denver (TM)
Violet-green Swallow - (last) few 9/11 Red Rocks & Genesee Mtn. Parks *
Pinon Jay - flock of 40-50 10/2 Red Rocks (DT,RG); 1 or more heard 10/12 NW Den.(DT)
Clark's Nutcracker - 13 scattered 10/2 Red Rocks (RG,DT); 5 10/8 Daniels Park (TM) (see also last month)
Mountain Chickadee - 1954 common on plains from 9/23 thru winter; 1955 none reported
White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 9/14 only record fall 1955, NW Denver (HT); 1954, frequent 8/20 to December
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 10/4 NW Denver (DT); 1 9/30, 10/10,12 SE Den. (TM)
Marsh Wren (Long-billed) - 1 10/13 Fed. Ctr. (DT)
Rock Wren - (last) 10/3 SE Denver (TM)
Catbird - 1 9/7 (DT), 1 9/17 (TM) Red Rocks; 1 9/25 SE Denver (TM)
Sage Thrasher - 2 9/17 Red Rocks (TM)

American Robin - very common, Denver 9/22 to 10/5 (1954, abundant 9/30 and 10/1 only)
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 9/11 *, several 10/2 (DT,RG) Red Rocks; 1 10/1 20 miles SE of Denver (JF)
Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 10/3,4 SE Denver (TM)
Myrtle Warbler - 4 10/16 Boulder (CC)
Pileolated Warbler - 10/4 SE Denver (TM); 2 10/7 Longmont (Mrs.CNC) (last)
Bullock's Oriole - (very late date) 1 10/13 Longmont (Mrs. CNC)
Brewer's Blackbird - (last) 1 10/11 SE Denver (TM)
Crow Blackbird (Bronzed Grackle) - 6 8/31 Lakewood (DT); 9/26 SE Denver (TM)
Western Tanager - First, Denver: 1954,7/23; 1955, 8/30. Last: 1954,10/1; 1955, 1 or 2 10/4 NW Denver (DT), 10/5 SE Denver (TM)
Lazuli Bunting - (last) 2 9/11 Red Rocks *
Pine Siskin - large flock, 1 young being fed by adults 10/9 Pinecliffe (RW)
Lesser Goldfinch - last in NW Denver 8/30 (daily since 6/25); daily to 9/29 SE Denver (TM); 16 (scattered) 9/7 (DT), last 1 9/11 * Red Rocks Park
Green-tailed Towhee - (last) 9/17 Red Rocks(TM)
Baird's Sparrow - 4 9/22 near Fort Collins; 4 9/25 near Waverly(JD,MD)
Oregon Junco - First 1954, 10/2 (Golden). First 1955, Montana Subsp, 1 10/5 SE Denver(TM); Shufeldt's, 1 10/12 NW Denver(DT); Pink-sided, 6 9/30, 10/5 SE Denver(TM); several 10/8 Morrison vicinity*
Gray-headed Junco - 2 10/5 Denver(Inspiration Pt.)(DT)
American Tree Sparrow - several 10/6 Boulder(CC)
White-crowned Sparrow - 2 immatures 9/11 Red Rocks*; (Gambel's) many 10/2 Red Rocks (RG, DT); 10/3 SE Denver(TM)

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The MARSTON LAKE trip, September 24, had dull weather, with a cold, northwest wind and mist during the latter part. Nine people attended, led by Sadie Morrison. Fifteen species of birds were seen, including five species of ducks. Coots(thousands) were most numerous, with many Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls. Highlight of the trip was an unidentified Jaeger, believed to be either a Shua or immature Pomarine Jaeger(see page 11).

The BAX RANCH, south of Morrison, was visited October 8 by a party of seven, led by Ruth Wheeler. Eleven species were found there, including a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, many migrant Brewer's Sparrows and early Pink-sided Oregon Juncos and White-crowned Sparrows. An unwary immature Red-tailed was the only hawk seen. A flock of ten mourning Doves were late migrants. Late in the afternoon, Mrs. Clyde Hunt's place near Tiny Town was visited, where eight species were noted, including Clark's Nutcracker(1) and the three species of Nuthatch in the same company.

Six attended the October 16 trip to MARSTON LAKE, led by Donald Thatcher, visiting also Bowles and Johnson Lakes. Forty-one spcies were found, including ten of the ducks, Canada Goose(25), four grebes (8 Westerns), Common Loon(2) and one White Pelican(at Bowles). Birds of prey were a pair of Golden Eagles and one each of Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks. Franklin's Gull was most numerous, with about 10,000 in one large flock, and the Coot was second in numbers. Interesting small birds included a few Water Pipits and a small flock of Mountain Bluebirds.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1955

October

25 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting. Mr. Harry Tyler will give illustrated talk on Travels and Birding in Mexico
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(Please use north (employees') entrance)

30 (Sun.) 7 AM Trip to Genesee Mountain Park. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) For late migrants and early winter birds. Newcomers and beginners especially invited. Meet W. Colfax & Sheridan, ½-day. (Transportation 50¢)

November

5 (Sat.) 10 AM Trip to Marston Lake and vicinity. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924) Ducks, grebes, gulls and perhaps a Jaeger. Meet West Colfax and Sheridan. Bring lunch. (Transp. 50¢)

13 (Sun.) 7 AM Trip to Waterton. John Flavin, leader (Sk6-1744). Migrants and winter birds at edge of foothills. Meet ½-block west of Broadway and Alameda. ½-day. (Transp. 50¢)

22 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular meeting.

27 (Sun.) 4 to 7 PM Everyone invited to Open House at the Thatchers', 2916 Perry Street, Denver. (GL5-7479)

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 3 No. 3 November 1955

THE CHRISTMAS COUNT

by John L. Chapin

Christmas counts are among the major activities of the Colorado Bird Club and many other such clubs throughout the country. Several thousand people spend a day in the field each Christmas period on these counts, the results of which are published in the Audubon Field Notes. The rules specify: the count area must not exceed 15 miles in diameter; any single count must be made on one calendar day; all counts must be made during the specified period; the count time must exceed 7 hours; and count areas must not overlap.

Anyone may participate in a count and may if he wishes take part in several. We in the Denver area make two counts each year. All individuals whether living in the area or not are invited to participate in either or both of these. The low altitude count made in Jefferson county southwest of Denver is usually made early in the count period (probably Dec. 24 this year) and has yielded 80 or more species in each of the last three years. The high altitude count held on the following weekend (probably Dec. 31 this year) is made in the mountains centering near the junction of routes 6 and 40 west of Idaho Springs and includes Echo Lake, Berthoud Pass, and St. Mary's Glacier. This is probably the highest (in altitude, not in numbers) of the hundreds of counts submitted from the United States and Canada each year and potentially includes species unique to the Christmas counts.

It has been traditional that the participants in the low count gather at our home, 2441 S. Dahlia Lane, at the end of the count (at or shortly after dusk) for supper and to total the count. We plan to carry out this tradition this year.

On the count the following should be recorded: names and addresses of participants, total hours on foot and by car, total miles on foot and by car, weather conditions, the number of each species observed and, if possible (for future analysis), the number of occurrences of each species. All observers reporting a species unusual as to locality or season should make every effort to have someone else see the bird and to submit details sufficient to separate the species in question from others with which it might be confused.

This year, in order to defray publication expense, The Audubon Field Notes requires the payment of 50 cents from each count participant. It has been decided, however, that the Club treasury stand part of this expense.

It is strongly urged that the area which each party is to cover (on the low count, particularly) be scouted several times before the count. This is important for several reasons: scouting makes the observers familiar with the area and allows them to select the productive portions for coverage on the day of the count; it sharpens rusty identification and minimizes the count time spent identifying such birds as Tree Sparrows. Only by scouting can the normal complement of thicket birds such as Winter Wrens, Harris's Sparrows, and Thrashers be found and "reserved" for the count day.

The following areas have been selected to provide the covering parties with a diversity of habitat. Some who prefer to spend the day on foot may not cover all of a specified area but should arrange with other parties to supplement their efforts in other parts of the area.

Area 1 - Little Park, Idledale, Mt. Morrison, Red Rocks, Hogback area east of Red Rocks, Morrison, and Bear Creek east to its junction with Turkey Creek.

Area 2 - Indian Hills from the divide to Turkey Creek and Turkey Creek from there to its junction with Bear Creek, Bax Ranch, Bear Creek east from the junction with Turkey Creek to Bear Creek Road, north on Bear Creek Road to the Federal Correction Institute marsh.

Area 3 - Upper Turkey Creek from the junction of the old and new roads above Tiny Town to Indian Hills; Little Turkey Creek canyon; plains east to Bear Creek Road and plains north of west Quincy Avenue; and Bear Creek east of Bear Creek Road.

Area 4 - Ken Caryl Ranch and Marston, Bowles, Tule, Patrick, and Johnson Lakes.

Area 5 - Deer Creek complete to South Platte River; west side of the river to Littleton; east side of the river near Littleton, and the town of Littleton.

Area 6 - Upper South Platte River from limit of area to north of Plum Creek junction and Plum Creek from limit of area to the river.

Suggested coverage:

Area 1 - Don Thatcher and party
Area 2 - (a) Sadie Morrison and party (b) Ruth Wheeler and party
Area 3 - John Chapin and party
Area 4 - John Flavin and Harold Webster
Area 5 - (a) DeMont family (b) Robert Glover and party
Area 6 - (a) Ferd Kleinschnitz and Jim Humphrey (b) Thompson Marsh and party

All members and others who are interested are invited to join one of these parties, or to make up a new party to cover part of the count area. This list is not meant to be exclusive but is suggested to assure coverage of the entire 15-mile circle.

* * * * *

CAROLINA WREN IN COLORADO

The sixth sight record of the Carolina Wren in Colorado has been added to our list. Mrs. John Lett reports that one wintered two years ago (1953-1954) at her farm at Platteville, in Weld County. Other Colorado occurrences of which we have reports are:

Fort Morgan - one wintered several years ago (Edward Hellstern)
Colorado Springs - July 2, 1953, in foothills (Mrs. H. J. Wagner, reported in Audubon Field Notes, Oct. 1953)
Palmer Lake - August 7, 1954, a singing bird (D. M. Thatcher)
Colorado Springs - December 26, 1954, Christmas Count (Audubon Field Notes, April 1955)
Weldona - May 26, 1955, first record at prairie ranch (Howard Rollin)

The range of the Carolina Wren as given in A. C. Bent's "Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers and Their Allies" (1948) extends west only as far as central Texas, central Kansas and southeastern Nebraska. R. T. Peterson, in his "Field Guide to Western Birds" (1941) notes its casual occurrence in Montana as the only record in the area covered by the Western Guide. The Carolina Wren is unusual in that it is non-migratory but spreads northward under population pressure until it is killed off by a severe winter, its range shrinking again to the area of more moderate climate. It appears that the present westward extension across the dry plains is of like nature, but perhaps has been impossible or too difficult to be noticeable until assisted by man-made shelter in towns and ranches. Does the number or recent reports indicate a westward extension of the range of the Carolina Wren, or is it merely a reflection of the increase in observers? - D. M. Thatcher

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to RED ROCKS PARK, October 22, led by Buryl Cummins, was attended by seven people. A stop was made at the Federal Center pond, where there were several Mallards, Pintail, American Widgeon, Lesser Scaup and Canvasback, also Pied-billed Grebes and Coots. At Red Rocks, twelve species were seen, none of which were unusual. Most conspicuous were large numbers of Robins (about 100) and Starlings (300).

Six made the trip to GENESEE MOUNTAIN PARK, October 30, led by Donald Thatcher. The twenty species seen included White-winged, Slate-colored, Gray-headed and Oregon (Pink-sided) Juncos, Cassin's Finch, Red-shafted Flicker (unusual in late fall), and White-breasted, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches. American Crow (50), Clark's Nutcracker (10 or more, scattered) and Red Crossbill (40 in two flocks, others scattered) were unusually numerous. Raptores seen were two Golden Eagles (adult and immature) and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. A short stop was made at Red Rocks Park on the return trip. Here twelve species were found, of which the Robin and Pink-sided Oregon Junco were most numerous. One Red-tailed Hawk and the day's third Golden Eagle were seen there. Total species for the day - 28.

The MARSTON LAKE trip, led by Ruth Wheeler, November 5, was attended by 14, both Marston and Bowles Lakes being visited. Of the 29 species observed, the Coot (several hundred) was most numerous. The Common Loon was unusually numerous, at least six being seen. Twelve species of ducks on Marston included several Bufflehead, a few American Goldeneyes and about 150 Ring-necks. Gulls were many Ring-bills and a single Franklin's, the last of many thousands seen on the October 16 trip. At Bowles Lake, a White Pelican, a male Wood Duck and 200 Canada Geese were most interesting.

* * * * *

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

Fall migration is nearly complete and most of the winter birds from the north are with us. Indications are that the Robin will winter at the edge of the foothills, at least in the vicinity of Denver, in greater numbers than in several years, presumably due to the unusual abundance of many small wild fruits. Clark's Nutcracker is still remarkably frequent in the foothills and the Red-breasted Nuthatch is much more common usual. The Mountain Chickadee, Brown Creeper and White-breasted Nuthatch are much less frequent on the plains (Denver) than in the past two or three years, the first-named not having been reported at all. A Dipper near downtown Denver is unusual, especially as it occurred up Cherry Creek, whose headwaters are not within its breeding range, three miles from its conference with the South Platte River and at least one and one-half miles cross-country from the river. Two reports of Rusty Blackbirds (below and at Weldona - reported last month) may indicate an unusual flight of that species. Ducks and other water birds are in about normal numbers.

Following are listed several unusual occurrences and migration dates (a few "last dates" supersede those so reported last month).

Contributors: Mrs. Venola Bivans, Irving Cantor (visitor, New York City), Mrs. C. N. Collister, Catherine Crone, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Homer Griffin, Mrs. John Lett, Thompson Marsh, Ben Moore, Margaret Pritchett, Cal Royall, Dale Rice and Donald Thatcher. Asterisk (*) indicates scheduled Club trip.

Common Loon - 2 10/21, 13 11/6 near Ft. Collins (JD,MD); 6 11/5 Marston Lake*
Arctic Loon (Pacific) - 1 11/3 Prospect Lake, Colorado Springs - "At close range thinner bill and generally smaller than Common Loon. Back feathers had white edgings, giving scaly appearance." (Listed by W. H. Bergtold, "A Guide to Colorado Birds" (1928) as rare, winter and fall) (IC)
Great Blue Heron - 4 10/21 near Ft.Collins (JD,MD); 1 10/25 Platteville (Mrs.JL)

Whistling Swan - 3 ad., 1 imm. 11/5 Valmont Pond, Boulder (Group of 2 ad., 4 imm. left 9/29) (JD,MD)
Black Duck - 1 11/3 near Fountain (IC)
American Goldeneye - 2 females 11/6 near Ft. Collins (JD,MD); 6 11/8, 8 11/9 Boulder (CC); 25 11/11,12 Rocky Mountain Lake, Denver (DT)
Bufflehead - 70 plus 10/30, 2 males, 22 females 11/6, Fossil Creek Reservoir between Ft. Collins and Loveland (JD,MD); 15 11/5 Marston Lake*; 15 11/8, 5 11/9 Boulder (CC)
Oldsquaw - 1 11/3 near Fountain(IC)
Krider's Red-tailed Hawk - 1 10/23 near Ft. Collins (JD,MD)
Rough-legged Hawk - 2 10/21 between Ft. Collins and Loveland (JD,MD)
Bald Eagle - 10/30 Fossil Creek Reservoir (also Golden Eagle) (JD,MD)
American Sparrow Hawk - (October report; 131 9/25 should have been 66 occurrences, instead of 6); 14 10/1 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Killdeer - 33 near Ft. Collins, 21 near Loveland 10/21 (JD,MD)
Greater Yellowlegs - 2 10/21 near Ft. Collins (JD,MD)
Baird's Sandpiper - 18 10/21 Warren Lake, near Ft. Collins (JD,MD)
American Avocet - 1 10/21 near Ft. Collins (JD,MD)
Herring Gull - 1 10/29 Marston Lake (IC)
California Gull - 100 plus 11/8 Boulder Co. (CC,Mrs. VB)
Franklin's Gull - 1500 9/26, 150 plus 10/16, Platteville (Mrs.JL); 5 10/29 Marston Lake (IC); last, 1 11/5 Marston Lake*
Mourning Dove - 75 9/26, 16 10/4, 2 11/8 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 4 11/12 near Longmont (Mrs.CNC)
Burrowing Owl - 2 10/18, 1 11/8 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Poorwill - 1 10/16 Red Rocks (CR,DR)
Common Nighthawk - last, 1 10/15 - SE Denver (TM)
Lewis's Woodpecker - 9 11/9 Boulder Co. (CC)
Horned Lark - first of fall, 6 10/25 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Barn Swallow - last, 3 10/4 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 10/18 SE Denver (TM)
Brown Creeper - 1 11/5 NW Denver (BM); 2 11/9 SE Denver (TM)
American Dipper - 1 11/4 Cherry Creek at Corona St. (TM)
Mockingbird - 1 10/27 feeding on lawn in snowstorm; first report for vicinity - Paonia (HG)
American Robin - last, 1 10/16 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 100 10/22 Red Rocks*; last, flock 15 10/28 NW Denver (DT); 75 11/6 Red Rocks (DT); 25 11/8 Boulder Co. (CC)
Mountain Bluebird - 11 10/23 near Plummer (JD,MD); 10 10/29 SE Denver (TM); see also Weldona notes
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 10/31 SE Denver (TM); 1 11/6 Red Rocks; 1 11/6 NW Denver (DT)
Bohemian Waxwing - flock 20 Red Rocks 11/6 (DT)
Cedar Waxwing - 1 11/1 Pueblo (IC)
Gray Shrike - 1 imm. 11/6 near Ft.Collins (JD,MD)
Myrtle Warbler - 5 11/1 Pueblo (IC); 1 at feeder 11/16 NW Denver (DT)
Audubon's Warbler - several 11/3 NW Denver (BM)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 2 m 10/29 near Timnath (with flock 5-6000 Redwings, 50 Starlings and 3 Brewer's Blackbirds) (JD,MD)
Bullocks Oriole - 1 10/26,27"at feeder, may have been an injured bird. Fed on apples and elderberries" (Mrs.CNC).
Rusty Blackbird - 300 to 500 10/4 (first seen by reporter) Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Brewer's Blackbird - 125 plus 10/6, last 2 11/8 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 1 m 11/6 Fort Collins (JD,MD)
Evening Grosbeak - 50 Boulder Co. 11/8 (CC)
Red Crossbill - 3 10/3 Fern Lake (Rocky Mountain National Park) (Mrs.JL); 40 (3 occ.) 10/22 Twin Sisters Mountain (near Estes Park) (JD,MD)
Baird's Sparrow - 1 10/4 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
White-winged Junco - 2 10/30 Genesee Mountain Park*; 2 10/31 SE Denver (TM)
Slate-colored Junco - 1 10/18,21 SE Denver (TM)
Pink-sided Oregon Junco - 2 10/4 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 25 10/18 SE Denver (TM); 10/27 NW Denver (MP)
American Tree Sparrow - first 1 10/20 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Chipping Sparrow - 1 10/18 SE Denver (TM); 2 10/29 near Littleton(IC); 10 11/6 near Boulder (CC)

Clay-colored Sparrow - 20 10/4 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Brewer's Sparrow - 20 10/4 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Harris's Sparrow - 1 11/2 near Cotopaxi (IC)
White-throated Sparrow - 1 10/21 SE Denver (TM)

The above observations are those digested from more than 300 received during the past month from about 14 reporters. It is planned to use all such observations in a seasonal and yearly summary which we hope to get under way in the near future, including the several thousands received during the past three years. All members are urged to help by sending in complete lists from their trips, also any other observations. In addition to the date, counts (actual or approximate) or some indication of numbers, number of occurrences, locality and habitat make the records much more valuable. Especially significant records are forwarded to the regional editors of Audubon Field Notes, for nation-wide publication.

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

November 6, 1955 - October recorded the greatest numbers of migrants of certain species noted for some years, as well as the least numbers or complete absence of others. All ducks have been unusually scarce here; 15 to 20 Teal being the only ones noted here, while 150 to 200 Mallards were noted near Ft. Morgan. Hawks are again uncommon;the Rough-legged is most numerous at this time, a few Marsh are about, and Ferruginous and Sparrow and other falcons are all absent to the present. Not one Sandhill Crane was noted this year. Pheasants have not been seen anywhere all fall. Franklin's Gulls were seen by the hundreds about Ft. Morgan to October 8. The Mountain Bluebird was unusually numerous this fall; the Robin was very rare. TheMyrtle Warbler was unusually common in Fort Morgan, while all other warblers were rare. Goldfinches are very scarce in spite of the large crop of sunflower seeds. The three Oregon Juncos, Montana, Shufeldt's and Pink-sided, are all here, but only one or two of each. The most unusual sparrow migrant was the Field Sparrow that remained until October 18 and may still be about with the Tree Sparrows; the Field Sparrow has not been noted here for 15 years or more. McCown's Longspur was unusually numerous for almost a month, then the Lapland (Alaska) Longspurs came in by the thousands, and remain fairly common at this time. A small flock of the Chestnut-collared Longspurs was also seen; none had been noted for some years but it is a migrant through here, and no doubt more common than recorded. White-crowned Sparrows were very common and were singing freely October 30. The Meadowlarks and Horned Larks both sang some this fall, but not as much as usual; both are numerous this fall. The House Sparrow is about in variable numbers, from a half dozen up to a hundred or more.

The following notes bring bird movements up to date:

Mallards - near Ft. Morgan; 150 to 200 10/25
Teal - (Species?) 15 10/6
Swainson's Hawk - last, 10/13
Rough-legged Hawk - first, 2 10/18
Golden Eagle - common, 4-5 more in 10/28
Killdeer - last, 1 10/11
Barn Owl - here until about 10/15 (last date uncertain)
Short-eared Owl - 1 10/4, rare
Red-shafted Flicker - 1 10/22, rare this year
Western Kingbird - last, 1 10/3, a later date by 12 days than any previous record
Say's Phoebe - last, 1 10/8
Barn Swallow - last, 15 10/3
Blue Jay - 1 10/26, very rare
Pinon Jay - 1 10/7, very rare
Magpies - common

Rock Wren - 1 10/10
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 10/10,26
Black-capped Chickadee - 2 10/17, 1 11/2,very rare
Robin - 1 10/25,30, very rare
Townsend's Solitaire - last, 2 10/8; largest number seen, 6 10/5
Sage Thrasher - last, 1 10/14
Mountain Bluebirds - 10 10/24
Myrtle Warbler - 2 10/3; in Ft. Morgan 10/15, still there 10/26
Audubon's Warbler - 2 10/3; again 1 10/5
Pileolated Warbler - 1 10/3
Brewer's Blackbird - 3 10/12; last, 12 10/13
Red-wing Blackbird - 2 10/24, 25-30 10/28; small flocks come in and go at present
Starling - 2 10/21
Gray Shrike - first, 1 10/23,25, about stacks, feeding on mice
Lesser Goldfinch - 2 10/18; 1 10/19; remains very rare
Juncos - present, but in very small numbers
Slate-colored Junco - first, 2 11/5
Clay-colored Sparrow - last, 1 10/7, very common migrant this fall
Vesper Sparrow - last, 1 10/5, rare migrant this fall
Field Sparrow - 6 10/5; 1 10/6, and noted to 10/18
Tree Sparrow - first, 3 10/7; again 10/10, common to present
White-crowned Sparrow - common. Last seen 6-8 11/1
Lapland (Alaska) Longspur - common to present
McCown's Longspur - last, 10 plus 10/4
Chestnut-collared Longspur - 13 10/14, rarely seen
House Sparrow - flocks from 6 to 8 up to a hundred, having again dwindled until almost absent since the Gray Shrike came in

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1955 MEMBERS, THE COLORADO BIRD CLUB 1956
As of November 15, 1955

(City omitted for Denver, State omitted for Colorado addresses. Denver postal zones in parentheses. Subscribing members indicated by S, juniors by Jr.)

Aarnes, Mr Henry - 4543 Milwaukee St. (16). KE4-9053

Anderson, Mrs. Ona - Georgetown

Arnold, Rev. Jay - Berthoud

Bailey, Dr. Alfred M. - 4340 Montview Blvd. (20) (Life Member) EA2-8913

Baily, Mr. A. Lang - Davevport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa (S)

Bayless, Mr. & Mrs. Frank - 4860 Irving St. (11) GL5-3201

Bivans, Mrs. Venola J. - 1560 High St., Boulder

Bonnema, Mr. & Mrs. Peter - 1368 So. Corona St. (10). PE3-6755

Bowman, Mr. Donald E. - 2454 Irving St. (11) . . . . . .

Byrne, Mrs. Helen - 726 So. York St. (9) SP7-2951

Caswell, Miss Phyllis - 1336 So. Grant St. (10) PE3-7451

Chambers, Mrs Donald E. - Route 1, Box 290, Broomfield . . . . . Brmfld. 24-J4

Chapin, Dr. John L. - 2441 So. Dahlia Lane (22) SK6-2200

Close, Mr. R. E. - Route 3, Box 490, Golden

Collister, Mrs. Carl N. - 706 Hover Road, Longmont

Condit, Miss Ann R. - 3235 Clay #5 (11) GE3-0492

Crone, Miss Catherine, - 1680 6th St., (Apt. 6), Boulder . . . . . Hillcrest 2-4408

Crow, Mrs. A. H. - 3273 Stuart St. GL5-4378

Crowley, Mr. Lawrence - 1212 Cascade St., Boulder

~~Cummins, Mr. Daryl - 2555 King St. (11) . . . . . GE3-3787~~

Dement, Mr. & Mrs. T. L. - 3653 Josephine St. (5) AC2-5003

Douglass, Mr. & Mrs. John - 900 So. College Ave. (Apt. 9), Fort Collins

Durfee, Miss Bertha - 3257½ York (5) AC2-2141

Edmiston, Miss Mary K. - 1355 St. Paul St. (6) EA2-5233

Field, Mrs. Lawrence B. - 2005 Ridgeway, Colorado Springs (S)

Flavin, Mr. John W., Jr. - 1315 So. Holly St. (22) SK6-1744

Force, Miss Jessie - 717 Humboldt St. (18) MA3-0531

Chapman, Mildred - 1623 Pearl - FR7-0573?

Friedrichs, Mr. Otto - P.O. Box 1514 (1)

Gifford, Miss Louella - 1057 8th St., Boulder (S)

Glover, Mr. Robert E. - 1936 So. Lincoln St. (10) PE3-8757

Griffin, Mr. Homer V. - Paonia

Hanesworth, Mrs. Robert D. - 3819 Reed Ave., Cheyenne, Wyo. (S)

Hansen, Mr. Charles F. - 701 So. Grant St. (9) RA2-8736

Hansen, Mrs. C. W. - Box 67. Fort Morgan

Hellstern, Mr. Edward - Fort Morgan (Life Member)

Herrick, Mrs. Beulah - 1440 Josephine St. (6) FR7-1414

Humphrey, Mr. James - 3010 Lowell Blvd. (11). GR7-3800

Humphrey, Mrs. Ruth - 3495 W. 30th Ave. (11). GR7-3800

Hunt, Mrs. Clyde T. - 121 W. 1st Ave. (Apt. 4) (23) SH4-0924

Hurlbutt, Miss Catherine - 1910 So. Marion St. (10) SP7-9362

Jetensky, Mr. James - 105 W. Irvington Pl. (9) RA2-6987

Juergens, Mr. David - 1928 E. 17th Ave. (18) (Jr) FL5-7468

Judson, Mr. Arch - 729 E. 14th Ave. (3) MA3-6302

Kingery, 2/Lt Hugh M., 34th Air Div., Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico (S)

Kirkeby, Miss Alma - 1660 Gaylord St. (6) FL5-4946

Kleinschnitz, Mr. Ferd - 1630 So. Milwaukee St. (10) RA2-9041

Lederer, Mrs. Beth - 525 College Ave., Boulder

Lett, Mrs. John - Platteville (S)

Licht, Mr. E. L. - 1637 Filbert Ct. (20) DE3-2837

Link, Mr. & Mrs. Wendell A. - 4400 So. Broadway, Englewood SU1-0140

Looms, Mrs. Laura - 771 Franklin St. (18) FR7-1445

Marx, Miss Katherine - 800 So. Emerson St. (9) PE3-4186

Marsh, Mr. Thompson G. - 199 Ash St. (20) FR7-5380

Marvin. Mrs. Anna - 232 Elati St. (23) . . .

Marye, Mrs. J. N. - 1810 Albion St. (20) DE3-2583

Matthews, Mrs. Vera - 735 College Ave., Boulder

McKee, Mr. Edwin D. - 4845 Redwood Dr., Route 2, Bow Mar, Littleton . . PY4-2854

McRae, Miss Phyllis - 1050 Sherman St. (Apt. 312) (3). . . . . [redacted]

Miller, Miss Margaret - 4425 Federal Blvd. (Apt. 204) (11). GE3-0454

Morrison, Miss Sadie - 1265 Mariposa St. (4) MA3-0840

Niedrach, Mr. Robert J. - Box 116A, Route 3, Littleton (Life Member) . SU1-3027

O'Connor, Miss Esther L. - 4829 Holmes St., Kansas City, Mo. (S)

Olson, Mr. Ray - 8651 W. 38th Ave., Wheatridge HA4-6823

Pfretzschner, Mr. B. R. - 5570 So. Steele St., Littleton SU9-0605

Pritchett, Miss Margaret - 2735 Federal Blvd. (11) GL5-2863

Ranson, Miss Maud B. - Box 557, Portland 7, Ore.

Reames, Miss Oppie - 3177 Main Ave., Durango (S)

Rollin, Mr. Howard - Route 1, Weldona (Life Member)

Rosenbaum, Mrs. Virgil C. - 2825 W. 29th Ave. (11) GL5-7600

Smith, Mr. Horace G. - 1457 St. Paul St. (6) (Life Member)

Smith, Mr. Olney G. - 355 Teller St. (15) BE3-5364

Snyder, Mrs. Mildred O. - 1601 Warren Ave., Warren Heights, Cheyenne, Wyo. (S)

Scudder, Mrs. Ona - Georgetown

Stockwell, Miss Ida - 1221 Washington St. (Apt. 304) (3)

Storrie, Miss Robina - 443 So. Corona St. (9) PE3-0809

Tappolet, Mr. W. A. - 1673 Sherman St. (3) MA3-4117

Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. - 2393 So. Winona Ct. (19) WE4-8137

Thatcher, Mr. & Mrs. Donald M. - 2916 Perry St. (12) GL5-7479

Thurlow, Mrs. M. M. - 2485 Paseo, Colorado Springs (S)

Tyler, Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. - 1600 Teller St. (15) BE3-2033

Voris, Mrs. C. D. - 1085 Olive St. (20) EA2-7256

Wangnild, Miss Lillian - 1062 So. Elizabeth St. (9) SH4-1622

Weberbauer, Mrs. Jean - 423 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs (S)

Webster, Mr. Harold M., Jr. - 7810 W. 46th Ave., Wheatridge HA4-1945

Wheeler, Miss Ruth - 3340 W. 37th Ave. (11) GL5-3924

Winters, Miss Eileen -

Wlassak, Mr. Otto - 1581 Madison St. (6)

Woodward, Mrs. Ruth H. - 5009 Elm Ct. (11) GR7-4362

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1955

November

22 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting. Mr. Ralph Asbury will present some of his movies of local birds - Saw-whet Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, etc.
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park
(Please use north (employees') entrance)

27 (Sun.) 4-7 PM Open House at the Thatchers' (see page 20)

Week-ends, Nov. 26 to Dec 18, to be used for scouting Christmas Count areas. Whether or not you intend to participate in the Counts, all are urged to attend these scouting trips. Call leader for the area you prefer (page 16) and arrange with him (telephone numbers on pages 21-23)

December

24 (Sat.) Low altitude Christmas Count (all day)
December regular meeting to be replaced by meeting at the Chapins' after the Christmas Count. All are invited.

31 (Sat.) High altitude Christmas Count (all day)

(NOTICE:- Both Count dates are tentative and may be changed to the following Sunday or Monday, if weather is too bad or enough participants prefer those days.)

Mrs. Ruth Woodbury
3440 Wyandot 37th Ave
Denver 11 Colo

Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 3 No. 4 December 1955

CHANGE IN CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES

by John L. Chapin

Since the originally scheduled count dates fell on Christmas Eve and on New Years Eve these have been changed as follows: The low count will be held Monday, December 26. The areas will be essentially the same as indicated in the last issue and the post-count meeting and supper will be held at Chapins Monday night. The high count is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 1. However, those who intend to participate in this count are urged to contact Don Thatcher, John Flavin, or John Chapin so they can be notified in case of a last minute change due to weather.

It should be emphasized that not only count participants but also others who are not able to take part in the count are invited to Chapins at dusk, Monday, December 26.

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Those who are planning to make counts in different parts of the state (outside the Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, etc. areas) and plan to submit these to Audubon Field Notes should secure printed checklists from the National Audubon Society. We understand that counts are unacceptable except on the printed forms and except when accompanied by 50¢/observer/count.

We should like copies of all counts made in the state for publication in this journal.

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YEARLY LISTS

Birders in Colorado are urged to submit lists of birds found in Colorado during the year 1955 to this publication. Due to the press of publishing Christmas counts such lists may not appear until later in 1956 and we may not be able to publish every bird on every list but we shall do our best.

John L. Chapin

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WINTER SHRIKES

A recent Wilson Bulletin (September 1955) contains an article by Dale A. Zimmerman on field identification of winter shrikes in Ohio. According to Zimmerman, most of the criteria for separating Gray (which used to be called Northern) from Loggerhead Shrikes are qualitative. Young Grays are definitely separable because of their brown color. However, both adult species may have barring on the sides. The sizes of the adults of the two species may overlap, but very large birds are Grays. The amount of light color on the bill is variable; when the bills are dark it may be difficult to discern the amount of black on the forehead, and the amount of contrast on the back may vary. Generally a Gray is considerably larger, side barring is more pronounced, the forehead has less black, and the bill is heavier and longer in proportion to the

head, presumably a situation similar to Hairy Woodpeckers compared with Downys, or of Bald Eagles compared with Goldens or Glaucous to Iceland Gulls. Zimmerman contends that Gray Shrikes cannot compete with Sparrow Hawks and are practically never found sharing territory, but Loggerhead shrikes are frequently found in Sparrow Hawks' territory. In our experience Gray Shrikes are much more common in east-central Colorado in winter than Loggerheads.

John L. Chapin

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BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

The past month's reports indicate a winter of unusual abundance or movement of several species, particularly of land birds. Most noticeable is the Robin, which is common as a winter bird about Denver and in the lower foothills for the first time since the winter of 1951-52. It has been reported in numbers as far north as Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Gray (Northern) Shrike is the most numerous in several years, almost every trip report from the eastern plains listing one or more; the writer has seen three between November 24 and December 10, to compare with only one all last winter (in February). Three shrikes seen in Boulder County, November 20, by Catherine Crone and Mrs. Bivans were believed to be Loggerheads, which would be very unusual at that date. Lewis's Woodpecker is commonly reported, often in small groups, after having decreased during the past few years. Clark's Nutcracker still occurs in the lower foothills as previously reported, apparently through most of their extent in Colorado.

The Pine Siskin is much more numerous than last year, occurring this season in about normal numbers. The Mountain Chickadee, numerous in Denver during the last two winters, has until the present not been reported below the foothills. The Brown Creeper and the White-breasted Nuthatch, usually frequent in Denver during the winter months, have been very scarce.

The most unusual occurrence is perhaps the flight of Lapland Longspurs during the heavy snowstorm of December 2. First noted by John Flavin at about 7 P.M. in southeast Denver, they were heard until midnight. Others hearing them were Leonard Licht (east Denver), E. D. McKee (Bow Mar) and the writer (northwest Denver). As the birds could only be heard calling in the falling snow and the dark, no definite idea of their numbers could be obtained. However, if we assume that they were flying at 20 miles per hour and were spaced an average of 500 feet apart each way, more than 90,000 passed over the city during the five hours. Any additional information on this flight, especially from observers on the plains east of Denver, will be appreciated. (See Weldona Notes)

Cal Royall and Dale Rice report the following hawks seen November 20, during a 76-mile drive from Ordway to Limon: Roughleg, 8; Ferruginous, 21; unidentified Buteos, 5; Marsh, 1; Bald Eagle, 7 or 8; Golden Eagle, 7; Prairie Falcon, 2.

Following are some migration dates and unusual occurrences or numbers reported. Contributors: Henry Bell, Mrs. Venola Bivans, Catherine Crone, Larry Crowley, John and Margaret Douglass, Robert Glover, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanesworth, Edward Hellstern, Mrs. Philip Hendricks, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Mrs. John Lett, Leonard Licht, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, Karl Menzel, Ben Moore, Oppie Reames, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Charles Snyder, Donald Thatcher.

Red-necked (Holboell's) Grebe - 1 11/25, Loveland (JD,MD)
Horned Grebe - 2 11/23, Loveland (JD,MD)
Eared Grebe - 1 11/5 near Fowler (Mrs. PH); 5 11/20 Boulder (CC,VB); 1 11/25 Cherry Creek, Denver (TM)
Western Grebe - 1 11/23 Loveland, 1 11/24 Estes Park (JD,MD); 2 11/20 Boulder (CC,VB)
Whistling Swan - 1 11/24 Estes Park (JD,MD)
Snow Goose - 1 11/24 (DT,KM), 12/4 (FK) Marston Lake (Denver)
Greater Scaup - 1 found dead 11/12 Jumbo Reservoir (Julesburg) (KM)
White-winged Scoter - 1 female or immature 11/24 Estes Park (JD,MD)
Hooded Merganser - pair 11/24 (DT,KM), 12/4 (FK) Bowles Lake
American Merganser - first noted Estes Park, Loveland, Boulder, and Denver 11/20 to 11/29, generally by hundreds
Red-breasted Merganser - 25 11/29 Boulder (CC,VB)
Golden Eagle - 3 (together) 12/11 Deer Creek, Jefferson Co. (RG)
Bald Eagle - 1 11/25 between Hudson and Ft. Morgan (LC); 1 11/29 Boulder (CC,VB)
Mourning Dove - 2 11/11 Jumbo Reservoir (KM); 1 11/30 Platteville (Mrs. JL)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 8/20-26 Fowler (Mrs. PH)
Short-eared Owl - 2 11/25 between Loveland and Ft. Collins (JD,MD)
Long-eared Owl - 1 12/3 Berkeley Park (DT)
Lewis's Woodpecker - 6 (flock) near Boulder (CC,VB); Unusually numerous, entire summer population seems to be remaining for winter (12/1) Fowler (Mrs. PH)
Say's Phoebe - 1 11/22 Durango (OR)
Blue Jay - common in Fort Collins 12/12, also seen in Boulder and Loveland in December
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 10/12,13,24 Fowler (Mrs. PH); 1 11/14 Cheesman Park, Denver (TM) (JD,MD)
Dipper - 8 11/24 Lake Estes, Estes Park (JD,MD)
Mockingbird - 1 11/26 Platteville (Mrs. JL); 1 12/2 Cheyenne, Wyo (RH)
Western Bluebird - Unusual concentration 10/3-5, Mountain Bluebird less numerous than usual in fall, Durango (OR)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 11/14 Cheesman Park, Denver (TM)
Water Pipit - 25 10/15 Fowler (Mrs. PH)
Cedar Waxwing - 1 11/27 Red Rocks Park (DT,HB); 12 12/5 Boulder (LC)
Gray Shrike - 11 reports between Fort Collins and Denver vicinity, 11/8 to 12/10
Bullock's Oriole - 1 11/7 Ft. Morgan (EH) (Add "Longmont" to report of this species in November CBN, page 18)
Brewer's Blackbird - 100 11/30 Platteville (Mrs. JL)
Crow Blackbird - 1 11/20 near Boulder (CC,VB)
Evening Grosbeak - 11 11/20 Morrison (KM); 5 11/27 (DT,HB), 20 12/11 (DT,LL,BM) Red Rocks; 2 11/29 near Boulder (CC,VB)
Cassin's Finch - 8 11/27 Red Rocks Park (unusual at that elevation) (DT,HB)
Rosy Finch - a flock, unidentified as to species, seen by R.E. Glover at Red Rocks Park, 12/17
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch - 1 at feeder 11/28 Cheyenne, Wyo. (CS)
(Pink-sided) Oregon Junco - 9/14-16 NE Colorado (LJL) (earliest previous report this fall, 9/30)
Harris's Sparrow - 1 11/26 SE Denver (TM)
White-crowned Sparrow - first, few 10/6, large concentration by 10/13, Fowler (Mrs. PH)

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The Club has received from Howard Rollin an excellent painting of the Ferruginous Hawk. Many thanks!

WELDONA NOTES

By Howard Rollin

December 5, 1955 - The pleasant fall weather gave way the weekend of November 12 to rain and wet snow that left about two inches for a week or ten days; then that rather warm period ended in the cold spell, with ten degrees below for the lowest reading. A slight warming was followed by this cold spell of December. Bird activity is at a standstill at this time, with just a few species about and most of those in very small numbers.

The following notes bring bird movements up to date:

Mallard Duck - rare until 11/10 when 150-200 were noted, and up into the thousands were seen flying about until 11/25, when they left
American Rough-legged Hawk - daily; most seen, 3 12/1
Golden Eagle - can be seen almost any day
Marsh Hawk - rare
Prairie Falcon - 1 11/14, only one seen this fall
Ring-necked Pheasants - completely absent
Mourning Dove - one straggler here 11/18; had not been seen since 10/2
Horned Larks,- about commonly; 2000-3000 were noted 12/1, mostly about grain-fields
Blue Jay - in Ft. Morgan, 1 11/14, 12/1
Magpies - remain rare
Robin - 1 11/14
Gray Shrike - most seen, 3 11/7, all immatures; first adult, 1 12/2
Starling - continues to come in small flocks, stay briefly and go again; 7 11/18; largest flock 25 11/27; 25 12/1 near Weldona
House Sparrows - come and go, but none stay long since the Gray Shrike came in
Meadowlarks - after being so common all fall are now rare; the last large number 11/14; 1 12/4 about the buildings
Red-wing Blackbird - small flocks of 6-12 drift in; 2500-plus 12/1 (trip to town)
Common Redpoll - 1 11/22 (very rare)
Lesser Goldfinch - 1 11/23 (very rare this fall)
White-winged Junco - first 1 11/15,18 and remains to present.
The three Oregon Juncos - Montana, Shufeldt's and Pink-sided - continue about here but only two or three individuals of each. They and the White-winged feed about the barn and we often surprise them inside; they are all quite tame and can be caught easily when in the windows
American Tree Sparrow - about in small numbers of 6 to 25
Lapland Longspurs - associated with the Horned Larks, are very common this fall; flocks of 50-100 are common; 500-1000 were seen 12/1. An unusual feature was thousands working northward during the warm days of 11/21-22

I was interested to see the note on the Krider's Red-tailed Hawk which was recorded here in 1935 and again February 4, 1938, when they were about for a couple of months or more; none has been seen since.

The Ferruginous Hawk is absent this fall; it was common last year.

Coyotes are extremely numerous; their presence may account for the absence of some birds. The coyotes commonly follow the eagles, hoping to be able to snatch their victims. Five coyotes were seen following one eagle, and one was noted resting under the eagle's perch.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Philip Hendricks - P. O. Box 386, c/o Phillips Petroleum Company, Fowler, Colo. (Sub.)

Miss Kay Kroon - 2036 S. Pearl St. . . . . PE 3-2370

Mrs. Walter Lambertsen - 122 W. Spruce St., Rawlins, Wyoming (Sub.)

Mr. Karl Menzel - c/o U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Federal Center (has left for Army - new address not received)

Mrs. Alice Sanderson - 1461 Logan Street . . . . . AC 2-7457

Mr. Blaine Thomas - 1243 Tennyson St. (4) (Jr.) . . . . . KE 4-8782

Mrs. Donald Turnquist - 5785 W. 60th Avenue, Arvada . . . . . HA 4-4825

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Add to list of old members -
Miss Bess Phelan, Pacific, Missouri

* * * * *

Mrs. A. H. Crow's address should be 3272 Stuart Street.

* * * * *

O. Q.

1. Which of the following do not have webbed feet: Loons, Grebes, Ducks, Coots, Swans, Pelicans, Cormorants, Gulls?
2. In what group of birds are the females more brightly colored, do the courting, and let the males sit on the eggs?
3. In what group of birds are the females much larger than the males?
4. What is the vertical distribution of the four Jays of northern Colorado?
5. What is the normal wintering range of Swainson's Hawks?
6. What is the normal wintering range of Franklin's Gulls?
7. To what common name groups do the following belong: Buteo, Empydonax, Accipiter, Leucosticte, Anatidae, Corvidae, Passeres, Dendroica?
8. What are the most common representatives of each of the following groups in Colorado in the winter: Plovers, Sandpipers, Grebes, Woodpeckers, Thrushes (two possible), Kinglets, Longspurs.

Count four for each correct answer; total possible score 100. Answers next month.

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A series of discussions on PLANT and ANIMAL ECOLOGY is planned, to be held at 7 o'clock preceding the monthly meetings, starting January 24. All who are interested in ecology in general or in relation to birds are invited to attend. These sessions will be supplemented by field trips later in the year.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 1955 - JANUARY 1956

December

26 (Mon.) all day - Denver Christmas Count (See first page)
Regular monthly meeting replaced by meeting at the Chapins', 5 PM. (East on Iliff to end (Dahlia), turn right and then first right again, follow around loop to SE corner, no. 2441.)

January

1 (Sun.) all day - High-altitude Christmas Count (See first page)

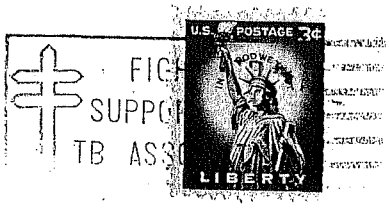
14 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip to Welby and South Platte River, north of Denver. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924) Meet E. 23rd and York Sts. (Transp. 50¢)

24 (Tues.) 7 PM Ecology discussion meeting (see bottom page 29)
8 PM Regular meeting
Denver Museum of Natural History

29 (Sun.) 8 AM Field trip to Sedalia and vicinity. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200) Meet ½ block west of Broadway on Alameda. (Transp. 50¢)

Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

DENVER DEC 22 11 AM 1955 COLO.



Mrs. Ruth Wheeler
3340 W. 37th Ave.
Denver 11, Colo.